

[著] 丈月城
Illust. BUNBUN

Campioness of Sanctuary

神域のキャンピオーネス

黄泉比良坂

volume 3

JOE TAKEDUKI & BUNBUN



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「お、お姉ちゃん、お帰り……。」

そ、その人たちはお客さま……?」

黒髪を肩までのばした二五歳。中学の制服を着ていた。

部屋に入らず、半端に開いた障子の陰に隠れて、こちらをうかがっていた。

極度の人見知り、いわゆるコミュ障なのだ。

Fumika
鳥羽 芙実花 しば ふみか





「前にも言ったことあるけど……。
特別に、あなたの好きにさせてあげてもいいわ」

今まで人形同然だったステラの体軀、
いきなり巨大化したのだ。顔立ちの幼さと
アンバランスなほどにステラの乳房はたわわに実り、
腰のくびれから下につづくおしりのラインにも
みごとな張りとボリュームがあった







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Tour Guide of Sanctuary

“Yomotsuhirasaka”

The Nation Birthing Husband and Wife

[When the country is still young and unhardened, floating on the sea like oil, and drifting like jellyfish—]

A passage of the Records of Ancient Matters.

It was talked in Japan mythology that two gods who were husband and wife, Izanagi and Izanami stirred up that grease-like thing to form the Japanese islands. Izanagi and Izanami first created Onogoro Island, then next was the islands of Awaji Island, Shikoku, Oki Island, Kyushu, Iki, Tsushima, and Daisho. Furthermore, the nation birthing husband and wife gave birth to their first child who was called 《Hiruko》.

However, because of a certain reason the child was set adrift to the sea.

Yomotsuhirasaka

The boundary of this world and that world.

In exchange of giving birth to the god of fire 《Hi no Kagutsuchi》, the nation birthing mother Izanami experienced an unforeseen death.

In order to take back his dead wife, the husband Izanagi headed to the realm of the dead.

The hill that he passed at that time was 《Yomotsuhirasaka》.

But, even though he accomplished a reunion with his dead wife, Izanagi would return to this hill in a completely unexpected form.....

.

Descending to the realm of the dead

In order to revive a dead person, god or hero would descend to the realm of the dead or hell.

This type of myth wasn't few. Not only Japan's Izanagi no Mikoto, similar episodes existed throughout the world.

For example the goddess of ancient Sumeria Ishtar. She rescued her husband who was also her son Tammuz from the realm of the dead. In Norse mythology there was the god of light Baldr, whose little brother Hermod would descend to the realm of death chasing after him.

In Greek mythology there was the poet Orpheus. In addition, the hero Heracles actually was also someone who had experienced descending to the realm of the dead.

.

Yamato is a great and splendid land

[Yamato is a great and splendid land on top of one another blue fence hidden by mountains Yamato resplendent]

(Yamato is a magnificent country. Many verdant and lush greeneries piled up on top of each other like a fence, surrounded by mountains, Yamato is beautiful) It was also a passage in the Records of Ancient Matters.

When the hero Yamato Takeru was wounded in war and approaching his death in the mountain of Ise, he sang that verse while thinking of his birthplace.

Prologue

.

Tokyo, Arashiyama—.

When autumn came, tourists who set their sight on the autumn colors would surge into this famous place. They would admired the trees that were changing color to red while strolling the outskirts of the scenic former capital. It was that kind of place.

And then right now the season was none other than autumn.

But, there was still around half a month until the autumn colors were entering the crucial moment.

It was quite the delicate period of time. Although, it was a tourist attraction by nature even without that, so today too Arashiyama was crowded with a great number of outsiders.

However—

The headquarters of Japan's Institute of Divinities here was different.

There wasn't even a single noisy outsider here. It was tranquil to the utmost.

It was a temple that possessed beautiful Japanese garden. It was designated as a world heritage and it wouldn't be strange at all if the place was crowded with the ill-mannered tourists. And yet.

The organization that protected Japan with sorcery.

That was the Institution of Divinities.

In that case naturally it was a child's play for them to lay out something like a magic barrier. It worked on the subconscious of people who weren't aware of the Institution of Divinities' existence and directed their footstep toward another direction.....

And then, in a corner of this tranquil ancient temple.

The old men were discussing.

"They young head of Toba main house.....Riona was it?"

"It seems she was playing around overseas for nearly half a month before she finally returned back."

"Outrageous! As a member of this august body that safeguard the land of gods Japan, there is a limit in even being lacking of self-awareness! As expected she is just a woman after all!"

"However, as expected that girl is the greatest expert of our country."

"Furthermore it's to the degree that other cannot even come close at all to her. With that as the case, we will have to tolerate some of her selfishness. It's an irritating matter but....."

"This is where I wish we can take that impertinent girl down a peg."

"Honorable directors."

Within the voices of only people of advanced ages or past middle-aged, the voice of a still youthful young man was raised.

"The Toba girl is certainly someone who can use the divine power of Yatagarasu to a great degree. However, she cannot hope to even use it freely without the permission granted by her [master]—an incomplete being. If we take advantage of that, then "punishment" can be levied on her as many as we likes."

"That's certainly possible, elder Kumano-dono."

"But still. Dangerous mysteries including the space distortion are currently spreading even into our country. In order to safeguard the land of gods Japan too, the existence of Yatagarasu is necessary even now. In that case, hurting that girl's humor just for a mischief should be avoided....."

"Of course, it will be a different story if you can become a replacement Yatagarasu though?"

"That's right. After all is said and done all of you the crow folk of Kumano are also descended from the lineage of Yatagarasu—its legitimate successor after all."

"Hahaha. Stop that. Can't you see that you all are troubling the young man."

The old men that were the authorities of the Institution of Divinities were starting to laugh together.

It sounded like a tasteful joke. It also sounded like a scornful laugh toward [elder Kumano] who couldn't use the miracle of Yatagarasu no matter how much he wished for it.

The young man was at a loss for words from being exposed to this treatment that was a kind of bullying.

He was at the latter half of his twenties—the only young person in this place. He was wearing a priest attire that consisted of a hakama and a white robe, an appearance that was a little unbecoming for the headquarter of the Institution of Divinities that was a temple after a fashion.

He clenched his fist strongly and held down the feeling humiliation while making an ingratiating smile.

"Even though us the crow folk of Kumano don't have Yatagarasu, we have this."

What was presented on the tatami of the Japanese room was a purple small silk wrapper.

It was opened and the content exposed. It was a white stone that looked similar with limestone.

But, as expected from the old men who were gathered at the headquarters of the Institution of Divinities. Everyone immediately sensed it. The ardent surge of mystic force that this stone started to emit—.

"Hou....."

"It seems to possess a significant history behind it....."

"It's not just a simple magical rock or magical tool. Could it be an item that is related to a god somewhere.....?"

"Yes. This is the sacred treasure that us crow folk of Kumano had concealed for many years, the Thousand Pulling Stone. Perhaps this is what they called strange coincidence, recently its divine power is increasing by leaps and bounds, and right now it's not at all inferior even compared to that Toba girl—"

"But, it's meaningless if it cannot be used you know?"

When one of the old men asked that, Asukai Takeru grinned.

The eldest son of Asukai House. The young head who was leading the crow folk of Kumano. A person who harbored a dark feeling toward Toba Riona who was the incarnation of the sacred bird Yatagarasu—.

"Please don't worry. Us the sorcerer of Kumano has poured all our efforts and discovered the method to control this sacred treasure."

The sign of scheming was squirming in a corner of the former capital Kyoto.

Chapter 1 – Tokyo Ravens

1

"Ren-sama! This is the first time I climbed until the height of the sky!"

The beautiful princess of Troia, Cassandra was speaking with sparkling eyes in excitement.

"To think that a tower this high was built by human's hand.....just what kind of magic is used in it!?"

"There should be no magic in it you know?"

At the viewing platform of Tokyo Skytree that boasted the height of 634 meter from the ground.

Ren spoke near the window there. The height here was 350 meter, but it was more than enough to take an extensive view of the skyscrapers in Japan's capital Tokyo.

It was a superb view that wasn't inferior even against the various wonders in mythological world.

"Everyone combined their strength together to build this like carpenter building a house."

"My!?"

Cassandra was in admiration hearing Ren's rough explanation.

"Then, it's the same with the king's tomb of Egypt that I heard from hearsay!"

".....King's tomb? Ah, you mean pyramid. Now that you mentioned it, both of them gathered a lot of people and built with group work aren't

they."

"I have never even imagined that this kind of scenery exist!"

It wasn't Troia or Norse mythology. It was Tokyo at 21st century, autumn.

Cassandra's attire was also in "modern style".

She was wearing a knitted dress with bright yellow color and black leggings. She was wearing a wine red knitted hat on her head. It was for hiding her subtly pointy ears that was because she was a royalty from Greek mythology.

They returned back from the world of Norse mythology a week ago—.

Because they were unobservant, they brought back Cassandra who was a resident of Greek mythology with them. And then the princess of Troia said this.

[I wish to see the world of Ren-sama and Riona-sama!]

In the first place Cassandra came to the Norse sanctuary with the power of an item.

The divine tool Hermes's Feather. It was a treasure of the god of traveler Hermes that could teleport its owner to any country or world they liked once a month.

To reuse this time, they had to wait nearly half a month more.....

Thus, Rokuhara Ren accepted the beautiful princess of another world. First they spent several days at the stronghold of Campiones association, Valencia.

[Ren-sama, the carriages are running even though there is no horse!]

[My! The door opened by itself, how convenient!]

[The, there is small people inside the box!]

Cassandra was busily being struck in admiration before the product of modern civilization.

The girl had come to earth only once for a night before the decisive battle in Sanctuary Troia, but at that time they only stayed briefly. She returned home without even seeing anything significant.

And then at the long-term stay this time——.

She spent several days in the old city of Spain, Valencia. In addition she kept close with Rokuhara Ren who was urgently going back to Japan and rode even an airplane. She came from Europe to Japan.

Cassandra had grown to not get surprised anymore by the things in general, but,

She was greatly struck with wonder at the viewing platform of Tokyo Skytree that Ren brought her to at the beginning of their Japan sightseeing——.

.

"By the way, where is Riona-sama going?"

"She is showing her face at the place of her acquaintance, so she will join us later."

Ren talked while walking with Cassandra at a riverside.

"Our return here this time is for taking care of the difficulties at Riona's place but.....she said that before she goes back to Kansai where the "headquarters" is located, she will go to exchange information."

"Kansai.....if I remember correctly the region we are at right now is Kanto, isn't it?"

"Right right. This is where I was born. After this let's try visiting my house too."

"It's the house where Ren-sama was raised then!"

"Yep. Well, it's not like my family is waiting for me there though."

Asakusa, Kaminarimon and Sensouji, Nakamise.

Today the two of them were going around the regular sightseeing route without any problem.

Right now they were walking along the Sumida River and came to the public park at the waterside. The gelato that they purchased along the way had the taste of earth that quickly became the princess's favorite.

By the way, Ren chose matcha flavor while Cassandra picked sweet potato flavor.

"Ren-sama. The seat over there is empty."

"Then, let's rest for a bit. How about you come out too Stella?"

".....Ren"

When they sat down on the bench of the park to taste the soft cream slowly,

Stella's voice that sounded terribly displeased replied back.

"Are you perhaps jesting, to wish for my presence in this kind of street? It will become a commotion if I manifest in a place where the vulgar riffraff are coming and going!"

"It's fine, it's fine. No one is looking at us."

"That's what you said, but it once happened when we completely attracted public attention!"

"Hahaha. Our luck was really bad at that time."

"Stella-sama. Please have a taste of my ice cream. It looks like there aren't many people if it's right now....."

Cassandra gave a recommendation beside Ren who was laughing irresponsibly.

Stella's mood seemed to be cheered up by the princess's reverence and she appeared on the bench with a pop. She had the size of a doll that was around thirty centimeter tall.

She was the tiny goddess of beauty and love, the lovely other half of Rokuhara Ren.

".....Hmph. It's not bad for the taste of the common people."

Stella gave a lick at each of the soft cream that Ren and Cassandra offered and then she commented haughtily.

"But, this city is the worst. It's nothing but uncomfortable."

"That's surprising. I thought that Stella love big city."

"Yes. Stella-sama was really inconvenienced in the country of Midgard where there was nothing but forest and wilderness, and you yearned for the city at that time."

"If this place is compared with that boondocks, than Midgard is completely preferable."

Stella declared in front of the surprised Ren and Stella.

"Even that repulsive tower just now, there is a limit in even being insolent! For the like of human who isn't god to attempt to approach the sky, just how arrogant they can be! Besides when it come to this city, there is nothing but ugly black stone everywhere—furthermore humans expressly covered the land with tampered stone, it's really the worst. The air is murky, and the sky is also blurry. Whether it's the sea or the river they are polluted, and there is nothing but humans crowding everywhere repulsively..... It feels choking."

Those were words that were really like the haughty Stella.

"But Stella. You didn't hate Valencia that much right?"

"That's because that place has the mettle to protect the legacy of the ancient world regardless."

Stella unusually talked with a solemnity like a queen.

"Although it's only moderately. But, Ren's home town is completely hopeless. It's a city that keeps growing fat following its desire without giving any consideration in regard to the sea and land. From a glance it seems to be splendorous to the extreme, but it's a completely decadent city that only embodied the ugliness of the humans....."

"I see now."

The stronghold of Campiones association of Ren and co, Valencia.

It was a city that was in the top three of Spain, but compared to Tokyo that was crammed with skyscrapers, it was a city that was really compact in scale.

Besides above all else—Ren recalled the profile of the goddess of love.

"If I remember right, Stella is a goddess who was born from the sea isn't it?"

"Yes. I am the one who govern over beauty and love, and the heaven sent child of the sea. I am also a daughter of the land. For such queen, this city is a place that is terrible hard to tolerate.Well, unlike that violent woman, it doesn't make me think as far as [That's why it's better to destroy it] though—"

[By violent woman, who could it be that Stella-sama is referring to?]

Stella spat out her words at the puzzled Cassandra.

"It's a woman who you also know. I'm talking about that Athena who cockily called herself a goddess of wisdom."

"Come to think of it, she certainly say such thing!"

"Right? Athena too is also a daughter of the land. There is no way she would think positively of the land and world that became like this. Well, though perhaps I too won't be that reluctant if I can destroy this city with Ren's authority."

"Don't say such dangerous thing. But, even for my power doing such thing is impossible."

Ren smiled wryly at Stella's scathing remark.

"It feels like it will be really difficult to destroy Tokyo. I'm not Godzilla after all."

"How foolish. You should be able to do it really easily. I guarantee it."

The tiny goddess of beauty and love asserted solemnly.

"Ren, you have only fight in the domain of mythology, so you are unaware of how much destruction your authority can bring about. If there is a chance, try ramming this city with the retribution that is fully stocked. Or you can try making that bird girl's flame to fall from the sky. It should produce a result that is more than you imagined!"

.

2

"Your evaluation is greatly declining at Kyoto—in the headquarters of the Institution of Divinities."

The owner spoke to Riona who was sitting on the counter's seat.

"Like how you were playing around in Europe using your duty as excuse, or how you are getting conceited....."

"It's not like I care. I'm already unpopular with the old men over there since the past anyway."

Riona shrugged and replied carelessly.

She was wearing plain clothes. She took off her light grey chester coat and put it on the seat beside her. Other than that she was wearing long sleeves with stripes that was matched with black jeans.

The place she visited with this appearance was a café at Yushima in Bunkyo ward.

There was a large man who owned the café behind the counter. He was stout and chubby [], but the way he was wearing a loose dress was a factor that could be quipped at.

But Riona didn't even pay it any mind and brought the Blue Mountain served to her into her mouth.

"Well, it's also half true that I played around in Spain. I don't care whatever they say about me."

"Only half?"

"Yes. I more or less also faced a danger to the world over there."

"As expected that line sounds cool when it's said by the top Onmyouji-sama of Japan..... Even I can only boast something like [protecting the public order of the imperial capital Tokyo] even though I'm your colleague."

The effeminate owner was running the café [M] at Tokyo, Yushima.

His true identity was a colleague of the genius Toba Riona, an onmyouji who headed Matsumikado house, a nonsensical character.

And then, he was also an “ally” of Toba Riona which was few in number at their business circles.

Riona spoke with a relaxed tone.

"That's because I possess the strength and also the caliber that allow me to say that. Ah, also I'm not the top of Japan, but the top of the world."

"But, things like modesty and humbleness are nonexistent in you....."

"Shut up."

Right now the customer inside the dim café was only Riona.

The tag of [Today the café is reserved] was completely hanged up the moment she entered the café so that they could talk about business in privacy as they liked. They were being protected by a magical barrier from any bugging or peeping whether they were magical or mechanical in nature.

"I quite like that cheekiness of yours though."

Shop owner Matsumikado muttered.

"Be careful. It looks like the gramps of Institute of Divinities gave a tacit consent [It's fine even if the impudent Toba Riona is chastised severely] to the green young master of Asukai House."

"Asukai House's.....green young master?"

Riona tilted her head and pondered.

"If I remember right, it's a clan at Kumano area right? A clan of sorcery called crow sect or something....."

"They are the same like you. You know, their catchphrase is [descendant of Yatagarasu]."

"Aaa. I see, I see."

It was an episode of Japan mythology.

Jinmu aka Kamuyamato Iwarebiko who became the first emperor of Japan. It was fine and all that he headed to subjugate the eastern country where malevolent gods were clamoring, but he was having a terribly hard fight against the formidable enemy there.

The one who guided him to the completion of his eastern expedition was the sacred bird Yatagarasu—.

The land where Emperor Jinmu and Yatagarasu met was actually Kumano.

Based on that, café owner Matsumikado said.

"Or rather, isn't it Kumano at Wakayama prefecture that is the "home" of Yatagarasu?"

"Preposterous. Yatagarasu's home is the place that was called Yamato in the past. In other words it's Nara prefecture."

Toba Riona was born and lived in Nara prefecture—.

She immediately denied the café owner's opinion with a straight face.

"Certainly it was Kumano who dispatched Yatagarasu to where Emperor Jinmu was. But, after that they went north and it was the country of Yamato that became the actual battlefield."

"Well, this is what they called [there are various theories and personal feelings] isn't it~"

"Besides, in the first place who is this green young master of Asukai House?"

"The previous head who went senile and died got succeeded by his grandson. He is a young guy who is still barely at his twenty."

"Ah, I see. So there is a takeover while I was going to Europe."

"It's already from three years ago you know....."

"I don't remember at all. In other words, he is someone with really thin shadow."

"It's pitiful to say it clearly like that. By the way, about the danger to the world that you encountered at Europe, it's related with the space distortion phenomenon wasn't it?"

"Yes."

Riona answered without delay at the huge effeminate man, owner Matsumikado.

"The mythological world at the other side of the space distortion—if its destruction isn't hold in check, it will also cause bad influence to our world here after all."

"The theory that if the world of mythology is destroyed, then the world over here will also head to destruction, is it true?"

"It's true. Previously I only thought of it that perhaps such thing is possible, but right now I'm convinced that it's completely the truth."

"Good grief."

Owner Matsumikado grumbled before he spoke.

"That's right. It might be too late to say this but, is it okay for you to dawdle in Tokyo like this? You should be able to just land in Kansai Airport when going home instead at Haneda or Narita and from there return to your hometown right away."

"It couldn't be helped."

Riona rested her chin on one hand above the counter.

"It's because my fiancée said that he want to stop by for a bit at his house."

"Fianceeeee!?"

"Ah, I forgot to say that, but just the other day I got engaged."

Her colleague who was also her ally was dumbfounded. His mouth was hanging open.

.

"Now then——"

Riona exited the café M and walked through Yushima district.

It was a business district that was also close to Ueno. The subway station of Chiyoda line was the closest to here. But, if she was going to meet up with her “goshujin-sama” and others at Asakusa——

She was about to take out her smartphone to check the complicated and mysterious transportation map of Tokyo.

However, Riona didn't do that. In exchange she quickly started walking.

Toba Riona who lived in Kansai & Nara prefecture wasn't really familiar with this area. But, if it was just the location of Yushimatenjin then she would somehow manage.....

And so, she came to a large shrine that was distinguished even in the capital.

The shrine grounds was covered with gravel. The three kanji of unpropitious direction 暗 剣 殺 were written on it with shoes track. After that she randomly strolled while waiting for several minutes——.

The visitors around were leaving one after another.

There was also no new visitor coming into the shrine.

Even the personnel of this shrine that originally should be protecting this shrine were also disappearing. It was because Riona applied the magic of people clearing. No one could enter here anymore if they weren't possessor of magic power that surpassed a certain level.....

As expected, a person immediately came walking.

"How confident to invite me like this."

"I won't deny that I'm confident, motivated, and energetic. But this time I simply thought that [stalker is gross] so I want to deal with it quickly."

".....What?"

The young man who came was slender with a face that looked highly strung.

His attire of navy blue jacket and white shirt also had no appeal at all. His reaction was also lacking in individuality. Someone suddenly appeared to shadow her after she left her friend's café. There was no doubt that it was him.

Riona sighed and said.

"You must be a small fry at best if you can't even make a smart comeback here. I don't know who are you but, you should assume that if you tail a girl at this age then the risk of being considered as a pervert at the least will——"

".....Asukai Takeru."

"Yes?"

"We are meeting face to face in the general meeting of the Institution of Divinities every year. I am Asukai House—Kumano crow sect's leader."

"Aaa.....so we are acquainted....."

Come to think of it, it was also a name that she had just heard not long ago.

She didn't connect that name with the face of the "stalker" at all. As expected even Riona got awkward and she coughed.

"I see, I see. No, I only forgot a little."

"Something is wrong if you forget even if only for a little. We are the same like you—a clan who is entrusted with the divine power of the sacred bird Yatagarasu you know?"

"That's not true isn't it."

Riona completely switched from awkwardly making excuse into a cold smile.

"I am the reincarnation of the founder of Kamo House, Kamo Taketsunumi. I am Yatagarasu itself. In contrast, your clan is.....a gathering of novices who can't even use a percent of the power of Yatagarasu that Toba Riona is using despite claiming to inherit the sacred bird's blood or divine protection or whatnot."

She put her hand on her slender breast and spoke with a pride like a queen.

"I already heard. It seems you are acting toady to the old men at the headquarters of all people and obtain the permission to settle your personal grudge with me. Good grief—to flatter your superior and ask permission first to pick a fight.....there is a limit in even being cowardly."

Riona scoffed at the opponent's cowardice and boasted.

"It's troublesome to be followed around by a coward from here on. I'll accept your challenge here."

"Shit-. A mere woman dare to act so smugly!"

Asukai what's-his-name swung up his right hand.

There was a talisman between his index and middle fingers. It was a piece of paper that was written with spell and crest. This talisman instantly transformed into eight crows—

They flew toward Riona to assault her!

.....Well, if it was an average level magic battle, then surely it would be a useful technique. Like in a competition where both sides' technique clashed with each other to compare the effect and decided which one was superior.

However, for Riona who had even experienced the clash between gods and godslayers—

"Well, it's only something like this."

She ascertained the technique's strength in a glance and let out a breath *Fuh*.

This sigh became a wind that easily blew away the crows that were created from the talisman. The caster Asukai what's-his-name also got affected!

"Kuhah!?"

The body of the young magician with highly strung face bent into the shape of ">".

He then fell on the gravel and started to convulse. He was writhing. There was even foam going out from his mouth.

"It seems the effect is right on the mark, how nice."

Riona didn't even give anymore glance at Asukai what's-his-name and left from the grounds right away.

It was a trifling technique if the trick behind it was exposed. It was a technique to blow the breath of life into other person, granting them vitality—originally it was a spell with the purpose of healing.

However, if the vitality given was too excessive, even adult man would writhe in pain.

Well, if it was her “godslayer goshujin-sama” Rokuhara Ren, it would only be a modest sleight of hand that gave him a tickle.....

"Rokuhara-san and Cassandra right now are at Katsushika are they?"

Riona checked the message in her smartphone’s communication application and muttered.

.

—Ten-odd minutes later, in the shrine of Yushimatenjin.

"Kehah, kehah! Shit, that woman, what powerful mystical force..... Isn’t she becoming far stronger compared to when I saw her several months ago.....!?"

He was also a practitioner who was entrusted with a clan of sorcery.

Because of that, he had the sharpness—to vaguely sense how much power contained by the opponent he faced.

His spiritual sense as a magician appealed to him in terror.

That wasn’t an opponent that a mere human could contend with, it said.....

However.

Even with excessive vitality breathed into him by that monster, Asukai Takeru had a trump card to absorb it and somehow recovered his body to form.

Asukai Takeru took out a stone from the inside pocket of his jacket.

White stone that looked similar with limestone—.

"If I can skillfully use this Thousand Pulling Stone, the next time I'll surely....."

The muttering of the highly prideful young man was filled with resentment.

.

3

Katsushika ward of Tokyo Metropolis that was bordered on Chiba prefecture with Edo River between them.

And then, Kameari of this Katsushika ward was Rokuhara Ren's "hometown".

"It feels really nostalgic when I come back here after several months."

"So this is Ren-sama's native land?"

"Yep. Well, it's a low-lying part of a city that you can commonly find at Tokyo, so it's a bit lacking to be a sightseeing spot."

Ren led Cassandra and said that while walking in front of a station.

The vicinity of Kameari Station was a business district that also possessed things like large shopping mall and so on. It was also a residential area where mansion, apartment, house, and so on were standing side by side disorderly. Due to that, it had limited material for tourist from the outside to spend their time looking around here.

"Ah, over there is the place where my home was at."

"My. It's a really big castle!"

"Hahaha, wrong wrong. We only rented a single room inside that building. I had also moved out from there before going to Spain, so there is already nothing at all there."

It was a worn out five storey condominium that was built 30 years ago.

Ren explained to the wide eyed Cassandra while passing through in front of it.

Actually it seemed that Rokuhara family was a family lineage with quite the pedigree. It was a family that served as doctor to a shogun of a feudal domain somewhere at Edo period. His grandmother who married into that family was a former teacher who exerted her authority in a prestigious girls' school. She was a person who was strict to both her family and herself.

His parents died from traffic accident when he was a very young child and his grandmother raised him.

Even that grandmother also passed on when he was at high school and so he lost his close relative who he could rely on. Rokuhara Ren somehow arrived at his graduation day while earning his daily income by doing part time job.

"I picked a school where I could become sport scholarship student so that I could save for the school expense. It really helped me at that time."

Ren recalled his busy high school period and nodded.

"When I tried learning boxing by watching others in the club, I could do it really well. Perhaps it was thanks to me playing at the gym of master Chanathip when I was a child."

"Cha, Chan.....what was it again?"

"The person who was my friend and master. I wonder if he is there today?"

They arrived in front of a "gym" right at that timing, so Ren peeked inside.

It was the first floor of a multi-tenant building. There was a square ring taking space at the center of the floor.

There was also a sandbag that was hung from the ceiling, training tools, etc. It was a really dreary room that smelled of sweat. There wasn't any trainee inside.

But, a Thai person wearing T-shirt and short pant noticed Ren and laughed.

"So you came home, Ren!"

"Hahaha. It's just a temporary one though!"

.

It was in a bar in front of Kameair Station, but—.

"My! So this is the martial art of this world!"

"It's the bare handed martial art of Thailand, not Japan. Master Chanathip seems to be a Muay Thai athlete in the past. He also did boxing and it seems he was quite high ranked as pro. He said that recently he also tried his hand on mixed martial arts as hobby."

"In other words he is an expert?"

"Yep. He came to Japan around twenty years ago and started this gym and bar."

Cassandra also had experience in martial arts like horse riding and archery.

She was watching the kickboxing match that was held in the special ring inside the bar with an unexpected enthusiasm.

This place was a Muay Thai bar Mai Pen Rai.

Not only people could taste genuine Thai cooking here, they could also watch kickboxing match. Furthermore even Japan's pro and experienced Muay Thai practitioner from Thailand itself also participated in it.

Even now a match between fellow brown skinned Thai people was going on at the ring.

The flexibility of the kicks toward each other was just like leather whip.

It was an exchange of kicks with some distance between the two fighters. But, before they noticed the two athletes stuck close to each other and entered a grappling situation where they neck wrestled—.

Cassandra stared at the heated match and spoke in excitement.

"My late Hector-niisama was also really strong at that kind of grappling martial arts!"

"He was a person from Greek mythology after all, was it a martial art like wrestling I wonder?"

Of course Rokuhara Ren didn't have an extensive knowledge like Riona.

But, he was more or less an experienced person in bare handed martial arts. He at least had the knowledge that the modern wrestling and boxing were born from mixed martial arts Pankration of ancient Greek.

Plates of Thai cooking were lined up on the two's table.

Tom yum goong that had prawn miso in it, salad of green papaya, fresh spring roll, beef minced meat fried with basil, green curry, Thai style fried noddle phat thai, chicken rice with boiled chicken leg khao man gai, etc.

Ren spoke in between of his eating the ethnic hot taste.

"I was a child who wanted to try imitating when looking at people moving their body. When I was occasionally imitating the kicking and punching practice at the gym just now, the skateboard in the street, or dancing, various people would get amused and taught me."

"It must be because Ren-sama's movement was that agile in your childhood."

Cassandra deeply nodded.

"I can picture it in my mind. I too have always been thinking it. That Ren-sama's martial art is splendid to the degree of being able to match most warriors of Troia....."

"Hahaha. It's embarrassing to hear that from someone who is acquainted with serious fighting."

Princess Cassandra has seen the hero Hector and Achilles from close by.

Her eyes should be considerably refined. It made Ren felt ticklish. And then, a girl who had only entered the bar interrupted from the side.

"Being humble is a bit unlike you, Rokuhara-san."

"Riona-sama!"

It was Toba Riona who was going off on her own during the noon.

She sat down beside Ren. Ren smiled pleasantly at his "fiancée". Cassandra too also turned a smile toward her.

"It isn't like that. Even if I'm praised that I have good movement in martial arts or boxing—it doesn't really strike home for me. I have the feeling that in that kind of world what's important isn't being skilled or not skilled, but whether you're[winner or loser]."

"Those are really deep words. That must be the understanding of a warrior!"

"Haaa.....I see."

For some reason Cassandra was deeply moved when he said his honest thought.

On the other hand, Riona was unusually looking impressed.

"So even though you are good in moving around as though dancing, you properly understand deep inside that dance and battle are two different things. Perhaps that kind of side is the[disposition of the god murdering beast]....."

"What's the matter Riona? Suddenly you said a strange thing."

"No, it's because just now I coincidentally saw a man who was awfully weak despite having something like[a man's pride] that was more than necessary, so somehow it makes me feel that."

"?"

.

".....and that was how someone from the Institution of Divinities picked a fight with me."

Riona tasted the Thai cooking while talking about what happened this afternoon.

"As I thought it seems it will be necessary to march into the headquarters and make an impact there."

"So, that means it will be fine to go like Julio planned."

She nodded at her "fiancée" Rokuhara Ren who was grinning.

"Yes. I and Julio will stir up the old men of the Institution of Divinities sufficiently until the endgame where it will be Rokuhara-san's turn so—please take care of the finishing blow then."

"I'll hit them *BAM!* with my all then."

Riona chuckled, while young man Rokuhara nodded frivolously.

It wasn't the sweet mood of fellow fiancées. But, it was fine like this. After all their relationship was a contract that was tied with shared interest and calculating benefit.

Joint struggle, complicity, accomplice, partner.

That kind of words was fitting for their relationship.

"By the way where is the princess?"

"She was watching the match at the ringside seat until just now."

The kickboxing match was already over.

And then, the figure of Princess Cassandra couldn't be seen inside the bar. Riona was suspecting that she might be going out, but right after that the ringtone of her smartphone rang out. A mail reached her.

.....She tried opening the image that was attached in it.

"This must be the work of that bastard."

Riona cursed.

The mail had the location of a meeting place and the name of Asukai what's-his-name.

And then, the attached image showed a girl wearing present day clothing—Princess Cassandra.

She looked puzzled and not scared. She wasn't restrained. But, looking at the situation, it didn't seem mistaken to judge that she was kidnapped.....

.

4

Katsushika ward that could also be said as the representative of Tokyo's low-lying part area.

It was packed full with small houses, but on the other hand it also had a lot of empty lots. Near Edo River and Naka River that were flowing within

the ward was the edge of Tokyo that bordered on Saitama and Chiba. Perhaps because there was some surplus of land, there were sprawling public parks scattered here and there.

This public park was also one of them—.

It had a size that could contain a whole neighborhood and hardly possible to be explored by foot.

There were barbeque areas at several open spaces. Rows of tall poplar trees. There was even a reservoir that was like a lake and forest where dawn redwood trees of cedar family were growing luxuriantly.

It was a suitable spot for strolling or jogging if it was noon.

But, there was almost nobody there at night. It was a deserted space.

In a certain open space inside this public park.

"Everyone. How long do I have to stay like this?"

Princess Cassandra asked with a warm and snug voice.

There were eight men right beside her. Business suit, parka, training wear, etc, their appearance was all over the place. However everyone was all making bewildered expression.

It seemed they didn't understand how to interact with the graceful Cassandra.

In the end the leader, a young man answered.

"I'll have—ask you to accompany us a bit more until Toba Riona arrive here."(TN: The person first ask high handedly before switching to polite language at the middle)

"Understood♪"

Cassandra responded with a smile at the young man who was wearing deep blue jacket and white shirt.

He was the one who was KO-ed by Riona at noon—Asukai Takeru.

There was a reason why he changed his tone from an arrogant tone into a polite one.

.....An hour ago. Cassandra who was watching kickboxing with her sweaty hands clenched was excited when it was over and she went out of the bar to cool down herself with the night wind.

The simple bar that was built with prefabrication was located in a corner of a bustling street of drinking establishments.

But, it was also located at the outskirts so the lighting of the area was dim and there were no people nearby. There she was approached by some men and one of them said.

"I'll have you come with us quietly. If you don't want to be treated roughl—"

Unfortunately, Cassandra was itching to move her body.

The princess who was born in a military family who also excelled in the technique of archery and horsemanship herself. The moment she somehow sniffed out the smell of violence from the men, she did it.

"Eih! Yaah!"

She whipped up her right leg like a whip and landed two consecutive middle kicks.

It was a technique that she had seen several times in the match just now. Cassandra had become the same like [a kid who imitating punching and kicking right after watching a kungfu movie].

And then, the Troia princess was a valorous warrior who even shot a giant of Norse mythology to death.....

"Guhah!" "Tawah!"





"M, my apologize! It was too sudden so I reflexively acted!"

Cassandra was flustered after making two men writhed with two middle kicks.

She was looking down worriedly at them who collapsed and squirmed on the asphalt road. The girl's middle kicks were just that powerful.

She easily reproduced a technique that she only watched a bit and used it skillfully.

It was a feat that was accomplished with her godly fighting sense and astounding physical capability. But, that was only natural. In the first place the royal family of Troia was a family of hero who inherited the blood of god.

The development that was too unexpected dumbfounded all the remaining men.

Cassandra who became awkward timidly suggested.

"That, if it's alright, can you tell me what should I do? I will do so as best as I can so....."

—Thus.

‘Please stay with us until Toba Riona arrives.’ Requested like that, Princess Cassandra accompanied Asukai Takeru and his seven subordinates.

"Ah. Ren-sama and Riona-sama are here!"

Cassandra noticed first and yelled.

But, the eight men around her were tilting their head. Because of the public park's size and darkness, they couldn't confirm the approaching people's silhouette by sight using their eyes.

Kumano's crow sect that was led by Asukai Takeru—everyone was young man who was born from a clan of sorcery.

Cassandra surpassed them both in martial arts and in the sharpness of five senses. Yes. even if they were magicians, when compared to a royal family of legend then they were nothing but “extremely mediocre normal human”.....

And then, finally Rokuhara Ren and his fiancée approached.

.

"We've been waiting, Ren-sama, Riona-sama!"

"Eh? Cassandra, you look completely alright?"

"I get it in a sense. Princess Cassandra is also a great woman of legend as expected. She isn't someone who can be handled by mere green young master of Kumano."

"Then, perhaps Cassandra's good will and kindness were aroused....."

"And she accompanied that bunch voluntarily....."

Riona and her goshujin-sama nodded to each other.

Princess Cassandra who was surrounded by eight men wasn't even tied by rope or anything. She was waving her hand to Riona and Ren with a smiling face.

Rokuhara Ren grinned.

"But this matter still cannot be solved peacefully just because of that."

"I agree. Let's properly settle the debt that has been placed on us."

Grin, grin, the two fiancées exchanged wicked smile—.

Even without any chaste love between them, the Rokuhara-Toba duo was already starting to learn to [dance to the same beat if the music was started].

On the other hand, Asukai what's-his-name yelled with an impatient look.

"Everybody, do it just as we arranged beforehand!"

"Ou!"

"Sacred flame pure and clear——!"

"This lowly self wish to reverently state in the presence of Sume-Mikami.....!"

Kumano's crow sect started chanting the words of power at the same time with their leader's order.

What the spell manifested above their heads were——golden phoenix. The third legged sacred bird with wing length that reached seven or eight meter, Yatagarasu.

The golden colored bird that manifested in air——was enveloped in flame.

"Hee! That's the same with Riona's transformation!"

"Only the appearance. They summoned spirit of fire and make it to imitate Yatagarasu. I'm hundreds of thousands stronger than that. It's like comparing fire from a match and sun."

"Ah, certainly it might be true."

"Everyone, please stop! It's nothing but recklessness to face Ren-sama and Riona-sama with that kind of trivial sleight of hand. This Cassandra will act as a mediator! Kneel immediately and beg for mercy from them!"

In front of the Yatagarasu from the desperate eight members of Kumano's crow sect——

Ren smiled casually, Riona shrugged, while Cassandra was yelling a warning from her heart.

Asukai what's-his-name and the men of the crow sect went red in the face due to the humiliation they felt from that difference in degrees of enthusiasm. They simultaneously chanted the last spell passage.

"O spirit of fire, purify and exorcist the impurity of all sins!"

"Here they come."

The flaming Yatagarasu flapped its wings and flew straight toward Ren and Riona.

In contrast, Rokuhara Ren was—displaying a reaction that Riona saw for the first time. The composure of a king. He smiled *fuh* with an elegance that made her wanted to describe it like that.....

He stared at Yatagarasu.

With just that, the sacred bird whose whole body was clad in flame stopped flying.

Even though it had flown until there was only one meter remaining to crash on Ren and Riona, Yatagarasu spread open its wings fully there. It suddenly halted midair.

And then, Ren thrust his index finger high to the sky.

In the next moment, the flaming Yatagarasu flew smoothly once more and stopped on the fingertip of Ren.

"The goddess of revenge pass down the divine punishment. I wish for the judgment of justice here."

The authority of goddess Nemesis, retribution. Rokuhara Ren silently chanted its words of power and took possession of the crow sect's bird of flame. He took away the enemy's attack as his own without even needing to

dodge it. The retribution would be completed if this attack was sent back to them.

"Wha.....what in the world, is that technique!?"

Asukai what's-his-name was aghast seeing the godslayer's stunt.

Rokuhara Ren himself was looking nonchalant and said,

"Riona. I'm okay with returning this to them you know?"

"They are insignificant opponent, so perhaps it will be simpler to do so."

"How dare you look down on us! My Kumano brethrens, there is no choice but to use that! Prepare yourself!"

Asukai what's-his-name gave the order once more and they started chanting.

"This lowly self wish to reverently state in the presence of Izanami.....!"

""""""The divine spirit of life submerging this heaven and earth""""""

""""""Now is the time to humbly present to the deifying festival——""""""

Riona was taken aback hearing the simultaneous incantation of eight people.

"That's——the words of power of Izanami no Mikoto!"

"That's right! We the sect of Kumano has a deep relation with the goddess alongside with Takehaya Susanoo no Mikoto and Yatagarasu. Manifest the sacrament by means of that miraculous virtue!"

Asukai what's-his-name had taken out a white pebble before anyone noticed.

It was similar with a limestone and began to emit mystical force violently. And then, that power was filled to the brim with inauspicious

impurity.

Yes, impurity. The concept that was considered as something that ought to be detested the most in Shinto from time immemorial.

"Riona, the ground!"

"That green young master, he is overreaching trying to pry open the gate of the realm of the dead!"

"Miasma" was rising up from the ground.

It was similar with smoke. The color was faintly white.

It gave off sweet stench that was similar with tainted meat and disgustingly caressed the skin of Riona and Ren with sticky sensation—it was a ghastly and repulsive thing.

Such vapor was filling the sprawling wide public park.

Then—the trees that were swallowed by the smoke were drying up in the blink of eye.

"My!?"

Cassandra was speechless.

The leaves were falling from the trees regardless of needle-leaved tree or broadleaved tree. Their trunks were suddenly getting emaciated. Moisture was vanishing from the surface of their bark and the branches were falling off.....

Even the grass under their feet withered in less than a minute and became ash.

The birds sleeping on the tree branches died and fell to the ground. Even the chirping of the insects that were filling the autumn night was suddenly cut off. Most likely they were also annihilated.

It was a wilderness with the living vanishing away as far as the eye could see.

And then even the crow sect of Kumano who carried out the great sorcery together with Asukai what's-his-name were——

Thud, thud, thud. They were collapsing one after another. However.

"Do you see Toba Riona! Even us the crow sect can accomplish this feat! Being able to use a part of divine power isn't just the special privilege of you alone!"

".....Riona."

".....Yes. I will settle this right away."

Riona responded to Rokuhara Ren's strong tone and chanted words of power.

"By the means of blazing fire and mine curse, exorcist and purify——!"

Golden light was emitted to all direction from Riona's whole body.

That was the essence of the spirit of sun Yatagarasu, the radiance of sun.

The miasma that brought about death to the world—that calamity was purified and blown away by the miracle. Like a radiance that exterminated the darkness itself.

The light that was released from Riona illuminated the surrounding like a small sun.

The forest of nothing but withered trees, the empty lot that was no different from a wasteland, they were filled with the warm light——

"Secret words of fire and sun, purify every kind of sinful impurity."

Riona solemnly chanted the finishing words of power.

Even though the whole area was filled with the ki of repulsive realm of the dead until just now, right now there was nothing that could feel even the trace of it anymore.

The few exception amidst this, Asukai what's-his-name yelled.

"Kuh.....little girl, now that it has come to this even if I have to put my own life on the line——"

"Enough already!"

The one who sharply rebuked was surprisingly Princess Cassandra.

Furthermore, a splendid high kick flashed. The back of the right foot was splendidly filled with the strength of her whole body and her weight and kicked through the brain of Asukai what's-his-name.

Jerk! The young man lost consciousness and fell forward.

"Before protecting your honor, protecting your retainer is the duty of knight and royalty. The likes of you who can't even protect those saying "put my own life on the line" is simply laughable! Before talking about big matter with such empty determination, learn that it's accomplishing the small matter that deserves honor!"

Spinning kick like a Muay Thai warrior + scolding.

It was a combination that was slightly unsuited for the caged bird princess.

Chapter 2 – Tonde Nara

(TN: Seems to be a reference to an old manga named Tonde Saitama)

1

"What unbelievable speed....."

Cassandra, sitting near the window inside Shinkansen she was gazing "outside" with sparkling eyes.

The princess of Troia had also finished experiencing airplane when she came to Japan. She had also boarded car and train several times. But, it seemed this time she was moved even more than before.

Surely it was before the scenery that was scrolling to the side with great speed.

Cassandra said to Ren who sat right beside her on the aisle seat.

"Ren-sama. This vehicle is also operated by human hand isn't it?"

"Yep. The driver's seat is at the front cart."

"Is that so..... I wish to ask as reference but, how much the authority of us royalty of Troia is respected in this Japan.....?"

"Eh?"

Cassandra asked timidly. She was looking down with an embarrassed look.

Ren was troubled at how to answer. The princess continued speaking.

"No. I'm fully aware that this isn't my native country and also how this isn't a territory of my family. Even so if Ren-sama can kindly answer this

selfish question of mine....."

The daughter of a royal family lifted her face and turned her sparkling eyes toward the front cart.

Then, sitting right in front of Ren—on one side of the rotated seat for two people, Riona said "Could it be".

"Princess Cassandra, do you want to try entering Shinkansen's driver room?"

"Exactly as you said. And then, if it's possible then I want to try using this hand—to drive this vehicle that is like lightning no matter what!"

"A, a princess driving on her own?"

"Yes! This world is filled with vehicles that are unlike horse or chariot—they're all amazing vehicles. I can't hold back anymore!"

Cassandra finally exposed the inside of her heart passionately.

"No matter what kind of vehicle it is, controlling it with your own hand is the greatest pleasure!"

"Hahaha. I see now."

Now that she mentioned it, Cassandra was also an expert of horse riding.

Ren laughed from learning the feeling of the princess.

"Then, let's have you try from scooter and car first soon. If it goes well, we will step up to train and plane after that!"

"Rokuhara-san, by try you mean-"

Riona questioned Ren who was making a positive statement.

"You wish to enroll her to the driving training institute with the arrangement like when making her a passport?"

Cassandra was of course an “other worlder”.

She didn’t have any earth identification. However, Ren and his group belong to the magic association Campiones that was old-established even in Europe.

And then Ren spoke carefreely this time too.

"It’s alright. Even without going that far, I’m a friend with a landowner of really vast land. We will manage if I ask him to allow us to practice driving there."

"My! I’m looking forward to it!"

"You’re relying on others to fulfill your objectives like usual. As expected from you goshujin-sama."

Riona spoke in sarcasm before staring at the train window from her aisle seat.

Shinkansen of Tokaido route that was heading from Tokyo to the west. Currently they were passing through Kanagawa area. They would approach Odawara and Atami soon.

"Well, it’s great that Princess Cassandra is pleased with various things in Japan. Though personally I cannot come to like this Shinkansen at all....."

"Why is that?"

"Could it be Riona, you have vehicle sickness?"

"No. I only hate the Tokaido route. I don’t have any like or dislike to the Shinkansen itself."

""?""

Ren and Cassandra couldn’t digest what she was trying to say and looked puzzled.

But, there was a person who laughed melodiously here. Actually—[a fourth person] was also sitting on their seating place.

"Ahahahaha. Riona, you're still bothered by that matter?"

"Shut up Maki-san. It's an extremely important problem for me and people of Nara."

Riona glared at her side with a face like she had bitten a sour grape.

At the second seat of the seat opposing Ren and Cassandra's side, a woman at the middle of her twenties was sitting near the window.

This morning, this acquaintance of Riona unexpectedly showed up in front of Ren and others at Tokyo Station—.

The girl who introduced herself as Seishuuin Maki was dressed casually.

With a clothing combination of beige coat, white shirt, and khaki wide pants, she didn't look like she was in the court service of a stiff workplace. Her atmosphere was also lenient and cheerful, rather she seemed closer to be a type of person like Rokuhara Ren.

She had short hair that didn't look cared for. She was wearing glasses with red frame.

And then, Seishuuin Maki made this kind of greeting to Ren and co.

[Nice to meet you everyone. Riona too, long time no see. I'm Seishuuin who came from the Institution of Divinities. I have position as Riona's superior and supervisor, let's get along.]

[I'm also her watcher assigned by the headquarter of Institution of Divinities.]

[You see~. I got instructed to drag Riona to the headquarters right away.]

[Also, I'm the one cleaning up the dispute last night—and also the one sent to apologize. It seemed that the Kumano group was doing as they

pleased and caused some annoyance so.....]

Like that right now, the “messenger from Institution of Divinities” Seishuuin Maki was cackling.

"Riona you see, she is sulking since long ago because Tokaido Shinkanse doesn't make any stop in Nara prefecture. Even though it's stopping at Tokyo and Osaka nearby, she said."

"It's not a laughing matter. This is a reasonable anger!"

Riona heatedly argued.

"Whether it's Kyoto, Osaka, or Nara, all of them are in the same level at the aspect that they are[the greatest capital and the center of the country in the past], and yet it's only Nara that is receiving an unreasonable discrimination!"

Toba Riona displayed an unexpected love for her hometown.

Come to think of it, she said it before this. That [If I cut off my ties with the land of gods Japan, I might grow weaker spiritually].

In that case, her ties with the hometown where she was born and raised in might be even stronger—.

"Ah, that's right."

Ren recalled something and stared at Seishuuin Maki.

"Julio told me. He also has acquaintance in Japan, and if I remember right her name is Seishuuin-san."

"Right on. You aren't wrong that it's me, Rokuhara-kun."

Riona's superior was unreserved to the end.

"Julio's house and my Seishuuin house associated since the period of Meiji. Seishuuin is also an old house of sorcery similar like that guy."

"Certainly, Julio is awfully knowledgeable about Japan."

"Right? After all that guy had been an intelligent eccentric since the past.By the way, I'm also acquainted with this Riona since our childhood. We are cousins."

"Oh my! Seishuuin-sama and Riona-sama are relatives then."

Cassandra was surprised before nodding.

"Now that you mention it, the two of you have similar looks."

"The little brother of my father left Seishuuin house and married into Toba house at Katsuragi. Us Seishuuin and Toba are both from the lineage of magic with long history but, to think that—an outstanding talent like Riona will come from there, it's something completely unthinkable. Our parents were all astonished it seemed."

Seishuuin Makin smiled wryly here.

"By the way Rokuhara-kun. I talked with Julio the other day at phone and heard something strange."

"What thing?"

"The space distortion phenomenon that is spreading throughout the world right now—the trump card in order to resolve it is you, Rokuhara Ren. He said something like that."

Seishuuin Maki didn't even pay attention to the casual tone of the man below her age and spoke candidly.

Ren instinctually felt that she might be someone he could get along with while opening his mouth to answer. It was then.

"I will explain in detail about that matter later. More importantly Maki-san, I'll declare one thing right now."

Riona smoothly cut in and she exchanged a glance.

Ren immediately reached out with his hand and took the hand of his reliable partner.

"Actually the two of us——"

"We are engaged♪ I will broach the topic to my parents and other relatives of Toba. Maki-san, please handle the Seishuuin house with a nice excuse."

"I, I'm also begging you, Maki-sama!"

The two took each other's hand, smiled, and spoke in harmony.

The flustered Cassandra also put in her words for them. When it came to the topic about Ren and Riona's engagement, the princess of Troia would always become panicked like this.

On the other hand, having the sudden engagement declaration thrust toward her like this——

"You who not only are blind toward romance but only recognize all men as nothing more than stage prop and who live with the doctrine of myself first are engaged? Even though perhaps you still haven't even had your first love? Lies. It's physically impossible. This is going against the law of the universe."

Seishuuin Maki was dumbfounded and blurted out really rude things.

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The number of words that Seishuuin Maki spoke became few due to shock and bewilderment.

But, even so the Shinkansen kept moving. After arriving at Kyoto station, they got into a limousine that came to pick them up and traveled until Arashiyama at the outskirts.

And then, they passed through the temple gate of a building that looked like an old temple with long history——

"The, then, Rokuhara-kun and Cassandra-chan can wait here. I and Riona will meet with the elders at the other side....."

Ren and Cassandra were shown into a certain Japanese-style room.

And then, the cousin who was still under shock and Riona walked through a corridor with wooden floor, heading toward the depth of the building.

"So this is the headquarters of the Institution of Divinities."

"It's my first time inside this kind of tasteful mansion! How mysterious. I can't believe that just wood and paper can be created to have this kind of solemn appearance!"

"It makes you want to look around for a bit isn't it?"

"Yes-. Let us look around!"

The Japanese and Troia person whose curiosity was simulated nodded to each other.

They were told to wait, but it wasn't like they had someone watching them or locked inside.

.

2

"Toba-kun, you were really taking your time to go home aren't you."

One of the directors of Institution of Divinities spoke with a pigheaded tone.

"I understand your circumstance of arriving in Italia when returning from Sanctuary Troia. But, why did you stay for long at Spain after that?"

"That's right. Furthermore, you even ignored the return order from us."

Even another directors were giving criticism.

But, Riona wasn't particularly agitated and replied easily.

"I heard that there was no emergency situation that needed me occurring in Japan. Since that was the case, I judged that I should slowly recover from my fatigue that was the result of preventing the destruction of Troia and stayed over there."

They were in a spacious Japanese style room that could be used even for a banquet for dozens of people.

The old or past middle-aged male directors were sitting with their back facing the wall of this room. Their number was less than 10. There were some of them who were wearing business suit, but the majority was wearing Japanese clothes.

The majority of the directors were sitting cross-legged.

Riona who was facing them was sitting in proper seiza posture.

However, her expression and wording were insolent to the end. Also, without even looking Seishuun Maki who was sitting diagonally behind her was clearly making an expression that said [good grief]—.

The old directors were all making face that contained dissatisfaction somewhere inside.

"However it shouldn't be your role to make such decision!"

"Certainly you might be the host of Yatagarasu. But in the end Toba house is still a member of the Institution of Divinities. It will be your family and relatives who will pay the price of your conceit you know?"

The dissatisfaction and intimidation toward Toba Riona spilled out.

But Riona didn't care. Until now Riona would give a bit more thoughtfulness to let the old people kept their honor at this kind of time.

It was because grudge would remain if she had an all-out confrontation with them, and on top of that it would tire her pointlessly.

However this time she had consulted with Julio and decided—.

[In consideration for the future, I want to snap their heart completely into two.]

The leader of Campiones association told her before she returned back to Japan.

[What I want to first ask from Riona is to take the role to read loudly the speech of duel. In accordance with the style of our Blandelli house, do it elegantly and provocatively. But despite all that don't speak any ill will clearly, present it to the old men beautifully wrapped in a feeling of reluctance—]

[.....In other words you're telling me to pick a fight with hypocritical courtesy to them?]

[That's an inelegant phrase, but it's something like that. As you know, we will have our demon king to settle everything at the end. You just fan up the old men's hostility as you please.]

The plan had been given the stamp of approval by the strategist, so Riona spoke without reservation.

"I also prevented the destruction of Sanctuary Midgard at Spain."

She didn't only use words, but also glared at the old men with her gaze.

"The mythological worlds connected with this earth—in the slightest chance that destruction occurred to them, it will also affect our world gravely..... It's a hypothesis that has been advocated since some time ago. I was convinced that the theory is correct throughout my mission in Troia. I have also submitted the report regarding that but, have everyone take a look at it?"

Astonishingly, a part of the directors casually averted their gaze.

The document that Riona sent through internet during her stay in Valencia. Perhaps they only listened about the summary from her supervisor Maki at best. But, surely they weren't reading the document directly.

Although, it seemed there was also someone who wasn't like that.

"Well, certainly, the report is quite persuasive. However, Toba-kun."

A director with a stern face said.

"The destruction of mythological world will have an impact at our earth—. In the first place there is no data that can become its basis. Besides, there is a definitely strange point in your report you know?"

"What could that be I wonder?"

"It seemed that you interfered with the Trojan War and confronted the chief god Zeus, the sea god Poseidon, and even Athena. Even if you are the reincarnation of Yatagarasu, confronting gods of their level and protected the city of Troia till the end—there is no way you can do something like that!"

"I've also written in the report regarding that."

Riona smiled coldly with the haughtiness of a queen.

"It was only possible because of the assistance of Rokuhara Ren, the Japanese person who was dispatched by Campiones association."

"Is that man—a practitioner so skilled that he can make a mission that is difficult even for you Toba Riona to succeed? We the Institution of Divinities possess the data of all magicians and people with spiritual power from every school and clan that encompass the whole Japan. But the name or family of a person called Rokuhara Ren isn't written in it."

"But of course. After all far from being a magician, that person isn't even related with our business circles."

Riona intentionally didn't write about the information of godslayer in her report.

In order to use it later as explosive to set out a great explosion or perhaps leaving it to be accidentally discharged.

By the way, she had also already written the report about the [second] who she encountered at Midgard and the detail of Ragnarok. She was only waiting for the time to present it—.

"Then, does he possess some kind of spiritual ability from his birth? Just like you or your little sister?"

"No. He doesn't have that kind of power at the slightest."

Even when she was hounded with question, Riona gave them the slip [elegantly and provocatively].

"He is a person with amazingly high physical ability and quick witted but, well, his birth and growth were completely that of a normal human.Ah, that's right. This is a private matter so I didn't write it in the report, but Rokuhara-san and I am engaged just to let you know."

"What!?"

"Don't speak nonsense!? You who are descended from Toba and Seishuuin mixing your blood with an ordinary person of doubtful origin, that's not something that can be allowed!"

The directors were becoming heated up all at once. Their reaction was just as planned.

It was considered that blood had a great part in the talent to manipulate magic and sorcery. The possibility of an outstanding talent being born from a family who wasn't from that field wasn't zero, but it was still startlingly low.

[Combining] bloodline that was related with mystique from both father and mother's sides was—desirable.

That was why the Institutes of Divinities frequently interfered with the marriage of sorcery clan and high ranked practitioner. They would say things like you should cancel that marriage, you should divorce from now on, etc.

It was an old-fashioned organization that was unbecoming for a modern nation of the 21st century.

And then just as expected from a long time ago, the old directors were absurdly and inhumanely enraged in regard to the marriage of Toba Riona with their ulterior motive showing—.

Riona was glaring fixedly at the faces of the clamoring old men.

Then unexpectedly one director cleared his throat.

"Everyone, let's take a slight break. Pardon me."

He stood up from his seat and exited the room. Several directors followed after him.

The verbal attacks toward her were quickly suspended. Riona muttered with a small voice.

".....I thought they would nag at me more insistently."

".....Riona. You didn't notice?"

Her cousin behind her whispered the answer to her.

A supervisor appointed by the headquarter of Institution of Divinities who supervised Toba Riona, Seishuun Maki—. When Riona turned around, Maki was staring at her with an admiring gaze.

".....Those eyes. Since when the seal of your ability was undone!?"

".....Aah"

Riona's eyes were shining blue without her noticing it.

A resplendence like sapphire was dwelling in her eyes. It was the proof that Toba Riona—had her full might as the golden sacred bird Yatagarasu liberated after obtaining permission from her master.

Just like when she was with the prefectural governor of Hyogo in Kobe her temporary master.

But, it wasn't like she was given permission from Rokuhara Ren at this time.

Since she exchanged the Contract of Wings with him, Riona became able to liberate her own ability freely even without especially receiving permission. He was a goshujin-sama with a lot of flaws, but a petty person who feared rebellion from his retainer and thus he limited their ability—he was not.

"It seems that my eyes are too radiant for the elderly isn't it."

"Your intensity since you started picking a fight was amazing. Honestly, even I who had known you for long was also overwhelmed..... Surely the director gramps also felt the same....."

"Fufu-. Then let's slowly drive them to the corner today without any hurry."

Riona smiled in satisfaction.

The commander-in-chief of Campiones association, Julio Blandelli.

He had business so his departure was delayed, but he was scheduled to arrive in Japan too tonight. After that was to observe when to play the trump card called 《godslayer Rokuhara Ren》.

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Now then, as for Rokuhara Ren who took Cassandra with him and left the waiting room.

The headquarters of the Institutes of Divinities was in the end an old temple, so it wasn't a novel place by all means.

Of course, the profound and solemn atmosphere, the well maintained traditional Japanese garden and the like were magnificent. They were worth seeing. Even the Troia princess Cassandra who was accompanying him.

"It's my first time seeing this kind of place!"

Her eyes shined many times in excitement.

However, Ren went to Kyoto both when he was at middle school and high school for his school trip.

The memories of those trips were still fresh in his mind, following that he was unable to feel moved with a superficial temple—. But there was no other place to see at this Institutes of Divinities.

"Hey Cassandra. Don't you feel a bit ticklish when staying in this room?"

"It must be the magic of security that is applied here. It grants the curse of death to the person stepping inside. I believe it's a spell to stop the heart."

"Oh. The wall over here, there is something like a ghost at the corner....."

"Ren-sama. Surely it's the guardian spirit here."

Cassandra gave detailed explanation to the surprised Rokuhara Ren.

As expected from a former priestess and prophet of a mythological world. She could even perceive the sorcery of foreign country Japan with a glance.

However, the two of them didn't have any air of nervousness at all.

"Ahahaha. My hand got stung just from touching the door."

"It must be a sorcery of sealing without a doubt. Surely it's a preparation to hit the intruder with electricity and burn them to death.

"Hmm. This stinging sensation, it feels really pleasant though."

"Then, allow me too.....oh my, it's true! Fufufufu, it's a pleasant stimulation!"

No matter what kind of protection magic, it didn't bring any harm to the two of them.

It went without saying for the godslayer Rokuhara Ren. And then, Cassandra who was a royalty from legend was also endowed with extremely powerful resistance against magic.

Thus, there wasn't anything bad occurring to them.

The two of them were carefreely inspecting the building. It was an interesting experience in itself but,

"It's gradually becoming a nuisance."

"Yes. Besides it's mysterious. If this is the place that governs over the country's sorcery, then it will be better to strengthen the protection here to be more solid....."

"As expected, there isn't that many people at Riona's level, perhaps."

Ren felt the greatness of his fiancée once more while exchanging nod with Cassandra.

"This attraction, perhaps it'll be better if there isn't any more of it soon."

"I'm feeling the same Ren-sama."

The two of them displayed a feeling dissatisfaction. It was then.

Prang! It felt like "something" brittle like a glass was smashed up.

Since then they weren't obstructed by any kind of magical defense anymore and they became able to loiter leisurely inside the wooden structure.

"Suddenly it became smooth."

"It because Ren-sama thought[it's better if there isn't anymore of it]."

"Eh? Just because of that?"

"Yes. Any godslayer possess a body that is difficult to be affected by mystical force or magic. Not only their body deflect back the hex that come down on them—it's so strong that it can even negate any inconvenient spell that exist nearby."

"Hee!"

When Cassandra pointed that out, Ren remembered.

"That's right. When I was dragged into the sea by that uncle Poseidon too, I was able to escape by doing something like that."

"It's possible to do that even against the authority of god."

The former priestess who served the sun god Apollo in the past said that solemnly.

"To say nothing of mere charm that human applied, it's like a cotton being blown by wind. As expected from Ren-sama, you're truly a warrior who slain the gods."

"Stop that Cassandra. Don't strangely lionize the like of me like that."

"Fufufu. But, I'm only saying the truth."

The two of them were having friendly chat genially.

Their surrounding was gradually getting noisy. While they were touring the headquarter of Institutes of Divinities, they didn't encounter anyone

whether it was in the corridor or inside the rooms. It was a place that was filled with only tranquil space. But suddenly several people came running with noisy footsteps from deeper inside——

"The barriers of the headquarter are all down!"

"Don't tell me it's an attack from outside!?"

"Impossible. Who in the world will attack the headquarter of the Institutes of Divinities of all place!?"

They must be the “staffs” of the Institutes of Divinities.

People wearing Japanese clothes that looked like Shinto priest, people with attire of monk, and then people dressed in business suit. More than ten of them were going around here and there in great panic.

It seemed they were checking the protection magic that was applied inside the temple.

And then naturally one of them were looking questioningly at Ren and Cassandra who were “outsiders” with gaze of suspicion. He approached them.

"I want to ask you two several questions——"

"Wait a second. Those two are my guests."

A voice stopped him just before the two of them were interrogated.

Looking closer, an old woman with small stature was also approaching this way. She was dressed in kimono. Her elegant light purple kimono was matched with a kimono sash in beige color.

The old lady spoke cheerfully.

"This young gentleman you see, he is the son of my second cousin. The young lady there is.....the daughter of my second cousin. This place is big, so they got completely lost."

"The, then they're Hinako-sama's relatives.....?"

The staffs were obviously suspecting them. Putting aside Ren, calling even Cassandra who had silver hair and green eyes as relative was suspicious as expected. However.

"Yes. That's right. That's why it's alright isn't it?"

The old lady smiled brightly like a child and forcefully dodged the question.

She was a woman with upright refinement and beauty that was suitable for her age.

Surely she was a beauty who made anyone to turn around toward her in the past—. Ren was convinced of that, while Cassandra was looking puzzled. The old lady mischievously winked at the two of them.

"Come come. Both of you, please come to my room quickly. I'll prepare some tea and sweets right away!"

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3

"In the end....."

Riona spoke inside a rented car with driver.

"Thanks to the commotion that Rokuhara-san caused, the meeting today got discontinued."

"Did I do a slightly bad thing I wonder?"

"It's not a problem at all. It was called a meeting but that was only the pretext, in reality it was only a gathering to bully me."

Unlike Ren who was feeling a bit sympathetic, Riona was looking pleased.

It was evening. They headed south from Kyoto prefecture's Arashiyama toward the direction of Nara.

Ren was sitting on the assistant driver's seat. Cassandra and Riona were sitting at the back seat. By the way the driver who was holding the wheel actually had a "charm" stuck on his uniform's abdomen.

And then, the princess of Troia timidly asked.

"Riona-sama. If it's alright, then please allow me to try driving too....."

"I respect the princess's attitude that ready to take challenge, but let's refrain from driving on the public road without any training beforehand. Please leave the driving to my shikigami for today.

"My. That's truly unfortunate."

The mister driver who looked like human from the side was actually a shikigami that was produced by the onmyouji Toba Riona. Yes. Previously Ren's fiancée had shown how she changed even a military helicopter into her servant that was able to drive automatically by inserting a formula into it.

Riona spoke while the car was heading to her home town Nara with the power of onmyouji.

"And after that Rokuhara-san and Princess Cassandra were together with Hinako-sama?"

"Ah, that person. Certainly she was called by that name."

"Does Riona-sama also know her?"

"No, it will be bad if I don't know her. After all she is someone who is the equivalent of the boss of the Institution of Divinities. Her position is like Julio in Campiones."

"Hee, that's surprising!"

"Yes-. She was a really kind grandmother. She prepared a lot of sweet confections, I would never think that she is the leader of the people who are treating Riona-sama coldly!"

"She didn't introduce herself as a big shot to us."

"Although I called her the boss but it's only outwardly, just in name. She doesn't hold any real power."

Riona shrugged.

"Takatsukasa Hinako-sama. She is a princess from a really esteemed bloodline. She has carried out the role of 《princess shrine maiden》 for many years."

"What is princess shrine maiden?"

"Only a maiden who was born from a clan of sorcery with pedigree, furthermore one who was born with excellent spiritual power can be entrusted with that duty. She is a special shrine maiden who spiritually safeguarded the whole Japan. If I remember correctly there is only five or six of them in total within the whole country....."

Ren was impressed hearing that explanation.

"So she is an amazing person huh."

"Yes. In the past I was also asked to take the post, but it's not in my character to be something like a shrine maiden so I refused. In exchange the offer came to my little sister though."

"My. So Riona-sama has a little sister!?"

"I actually have one. My little sister, it might be biased for me as her big sister to say it but, she has a slightly interesting ability. But her personality is like that, so she isn't suited to be shrine maiden just as I thought."

"What kind of girl she is?"

"You'll understand if you meet her. We'll arrive at Toba family's home soon."

The girl who would become his sister-in-law one day. Riona told Ren who was getting interested.

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They arrived at Nara prefecture's Ikoma city after driving for around an hour from Arashiyama.

For a commuter town that was near to Kyoto and Osaka, it was blessed by nature and had a lot of greenery. Living here also wouldn't be inconvenient if they used car for daily shopping.

And then, the house of Riona that was also the great landowner here was vast.

It was a Japanese mansion where several families could live together in it. Family and followers also often came uninvited, so this size was necessary.

They could see the sacred mountain Ikoma Mountain from the courtyard.

Located at the prefectural border of Nara and Osaka, from time immemorial it became a stage of myth.

The mountain was the stronghold of Nagasunehiko who was hostile toward Emperor Jinmu aka Kamuyamato Iwarebiko, as well as the founder of Shugendo, En no Gyouja aka En no Ozunu.

Riona spoke frankly inside a Japanese-style room of this splendid mansion.

"And so Tou-san, Kaa-san. Just as I reported in the phone, this person is my fiancée Rokuhara Ren-san. He doesn't come from a lineage of sorcery, but he is affiliated with Europe's association so there won't be any problem

to have business talk with him. And then this person is Cassandra. I will talk about the detail little by little but, she is a princess who I brought here from a mythological world and an otherworlder. The two of them will stay for a while in our house."

Her speech was a really smooth one.

The information report was done around a rosewood table. Rokuhara Ren, Riona, and Cassandra were sitting side by side, while the parents were sitting in front of them.

The mother, Toba Yutori muttered in a daze.

"No way, Riona-chan..... To decide an engagement without even consulting us, there is a limit even in being absurd....."(TN: She is speaking in local accent in the raw)

She had slim body style that was similar with her daughter Riona.

But, she appeared to have gentle personality and soft expression. The mother spoke.

"It's not just your father and mother-. When it come to the marriage of Riona-chan who is the head of onmyoudou Toba clan, we have to talk it out carefully with everyone of the clan and the Institution of Divinities. We don't know what kind of complains they will bring up at the future like this-"

"It's fine, regarding the Institution of Divinities I'll talk directly with them."

Riona brushed aside her mother's objection.

"The annoying elders of Toba clan has been under my control since a long time ago. Since I succeeded the family headship at thirteen, I showed them the difference in caliber at every opportunity, won them over, and tamed them. If there is still elder who want to say something even then, I'll shut them up with force. No problem."

"Is that so? Well if Riona-chan say that, then that might be the case....."

At the beginning the mother was the leader who managed the Toba clan.

Sometimes the father who married into the family would substitute for that role.

But, putting aside the parents' mystical force, they had a personality that was extremely detached from the worldly sense.

Riona who was like a selfish queen but blessed with talent and also overflowing with ambition should become the young head—. When she answered the expectation of her surrounding, the new leader was born.

And then just as expected, the mother was easily convinced even toward the sudden engagement.

Then what about the father—Toba Fumihiko?

"Riona. Since the time your mother turned over the headship to you, father thought that you are already an adult. If this is something that you decided, then I won't say anything. You can go forth through the path that you believe in."

The father who was thin and wearing glasses, Fumihiko spoke with an air like an understanding parent.

However, the father also added something like this.

"But more importantly. Father recently thought of a new idea called [Yamataikoku was at north-east Iwate]. I want to finish writing it this year, so can you help me with sorting the data?"

"Tou-san. If you don't hold back with your suspicious work, you will get expelled from the scientific society soon you know?"

He was more or less a young man who was born from Seishuun house that was a noted family of sorcery in Japan.

But, he had no intention to make use of the techniques he learned, left his parents' house in Chichibu, and married into this family.

Currently he was taking a teaching job in an university at Kyoto, while on the side he was secretly pouring his effort in a work as writer that was writing absurd historical story with suspicious authenticity.....

Anyway Riona finished her report to her parents.

"And so, my parents are alright with it."

"Hahaha. It's great that your father and mother seem like people who I can get along with. I'm Rokuhara Ren. Please treat me well from now on."

"Not at all, we should be the one saying that. To think that Riona-chan is able to get boyfriend like this."

"Riona was strict toward boys since the past after all..... In kindergarten she would say [Become horse for me to get on]. At the elementary school she said [If you're going to apologize then kneel down and pay me back a hundred times]. At the middle school she finally went [Heaven and earth are centered around me]....."

"So she is already acting like a queen since she was that small?"

"Yep. She doesn't resemble me or her mother. By the way Rokuhara-kun. The idea of [The stage of King Arthur legend was at the northeast of Japan] that I have been visioning for so many years, what do you think? I think that the idea is really good though....."

"That seems like an interesting story. Please let me hear about it if you like."

"Eh, is that alright? Then right away. No, the start of it was from [Tsugaru Soto Sangunshi]. Do you know, frankly speaking it's a really dubious history book see....."

Her fiancée goshujin-sama knew how to go with the flow just as expected.

He would become friend with strange right away and then casually “begged” them for things. The origin of that special skill which was his slickness was demonstrated fully, He was easily starting to hit it off with her parents.

Princess Cassandra gave that a sidelong glance and muttered.

"Excuse me, Riona-sama. If I'm not mistaken, you also have a little sister aren't you?"

"I'm calling her right now.Shikigami, come to me."

Riona folded a Japanese paper into human shape on the table.

Hyoko-. The improvised paper doll stood straight on two legs.

"Go to where Fumika is and tell her this, [If you don't come to Onee-sama's place right away, then I won't give you the new work I procured in Ikebukuro]."

"Riona, you also went to Ikebukuro at Tokyo?"

"Yes. I went for a bit while you two were at Skytree."

"What kind of place this area called Ikebukuro is?"

"The road that girl liked is there. The road where the depraved maiden gathered....."

The room's paper sliding door was opened.

The paper human doll was walking with bobbing footsteps to outside.

They waited for several minutes. *Bata bata bata*. The sound of running footsteps could be heard from the corridor with wooden floor.

"O, Onee-chan, welcome back..... Tho, those people are guests.....?"

She was the second daughter of Toba House, Fumika.

Her black hair was grown until her shoulder. She was fifteen years old. She was wearing a middle school uniform.

She didn't enter the room. She was hiding in the shadow of the half opened paper sliding door while peeking at their way.

She was extremely shy toward strangers, so to speak she had difficulty in communication.

In addition she was culturally corrupted, a rotten maiden who loved overripeness more than anything—. She should also have a path to make use of her beauty that was inherited from her mother and Riona, but at this rate her best bet might be in being [princess of otaku circle].....

Anyhow, Riona spoke to her little sister.

"This is my fiancée, and a friend. Greet them."

"Eh!? Onee-chan whose romance qualities are zero is engaged!? Lies, if that's true then, the last day of earth will soon arrive!"

The little sister Fumika was astounded and blurted out.

It wasn't a joke or frivolous talk, but a comment that appeared to be the feeling at the bottom of her heart.

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4

That night, the dinner of Toba House was a feast.

The main dish was Asuka hot pot. It was a famous hot pot cooking using milk and chicken bone as the soup stock. It used local vegetables and meat of Yamato local chicken. In addition, there was also karaage using the same chicken meat.

Beef shigureni using Yamato beef, vegetables pickled in sake lees as entremets, etc. Colorful local cuisines were served.

It was Ren's fiancée who requested them.

"Yep. The kakinoha sushi that I eat after so long is really delicious."

"But Riona-chan. Tonight we also have the [Elegant boiled tofu set] bought from Kyoto's Takashiroya and Hanaore's mackerel sushi you know?"

"Father like the mackerel sushi."

"This is the celebratory dinner for your daughter who returned from abroad after so long, furthermore it's also a betrothal celebration! Please don't serve something like Kyoto's specialty in this occasion!"

"But, Onee-chan's school is also at Kyoto....."

"My place of work is also there."

"I enrolled at Kyoto reluctantly in order to be able to do my work for the Institution of Divinities and my studies at the same time. I didn't choose Kyoto because I liked it. So to speak it was a bitter choice. I've told all of you so many times."

"Ren-sama. Kyoto was the city we visited before this wasn't it?"

Cassandra was delightfully watching over the family conversation while asking.

"It was a place with beautiful appearance."

"Yep. Looks like Riona hate it for some reason though. I too had gone there twice for my school trips."

"There is a deep reason behind it, Princess Cassandra..... Then let me ask Rokuhara-san. Have you ever travel to Nara before?"

"Hmmm, never I think."

Ren searched his memory and answered.

"At my school, when we got to choose whether to go to Kyoto or Nara for the school trip, I was fine with going to Nara, but the people at my group all said they prefer Kyoto."

"It's that, the root of all evils!"

Bam-. Riona struck the rosewood table and strongly appealed.

"The tendency for people to think that Kyoto is the only ancient city—it certainly exist! Even Nara has Todaiji Temple in it, it also has Houryuu Temple. There is even Yakushi Temple, and also Koufuku Temple!"

‘There are only temples huh.’ Although Ren thought that, he very carefully didn’t mention it out loud.

His instinct was working. Perhaps saying that would be no good.

"In addition, when Nara’s tourism association created a commercial for advertising, people who watched it will make unenlightened comments like [Ain’t this a plagiarism of Kyoto tourism] or [Eh, this isn’t commercial for Kyoto?] and the like! Especially people at Kanto region!"

"Aaah. I might have seen that commercial before."

Ren nodded. There Riona’s father Mr. Fumihiko started talking.

"By the way Rokuhara-kun, do you want to go to my study after this? I want you to read the draft of [Japan’s capital in Jomon period was Mt. Fuji] that I’m writing right now. If Cassandra-san like you can come too."

"Hee, that sounds interesting!"

"If Ren-sama is going, then I’ll also come along!"

"Wait a second Tou-san, please don’t interrupt my talk."

Like this the dining table of Toba House was lively.

It was Riona who talked the most. Next was the father (however, a lot of the time he would divert the topic to a completely different direction). The mother Yutori-san would smile gently while making interjection sometimes.

And then—Ren glanced at the girl who was the youngest here.

Their gazes met, so he smiled with a friendly look.

Seeing that, Toba Fumika immediately looked down in panic. When she did that, because her front hair was long her eyes were hidden. Certainly, she had fear of strangers.

She was dainty with well-featured face like Riona, but she seemed to be really timid.

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"In the end, Fumika-chan didn't talk even once."

"I think it'll be hard to connect with that girl even with Rokuhara-san's communication power."

Riona commented at Ren's muttering.

As to be expected from the great landowner, the garden of Toba House was vast and had nice display on top of it. The trees that were thoroughly cared for were growing well like an orchard from somewhere. The two of them were alone at a corner of the garden.

It was late at night past midnight. The other residents of the house should have fallen asleep already since a long time ago.

"Well, there is no point in getting impatient when dealing with that kind of girl."

Ren made a thumb up at his fiancée.

"She is my future little sister, so I'm going to slowly get to know her."

"It will help if Rokuhara-san can do so. Even so——"

Suddenly Riona averted her gaze.

She looked up to the majestic appearance of Ikoma Mountain from the garden.

"Perhaps because of my return.....the spirits of the deceased at the mountain are getting noisy."

"Spirits of the deceased? What's that?"

"Like evil spirits of river and mountain, tree spirit, crude spirit, ghost. That kind of things. My, Toba Riona's true nature is "spirit of sun" after all. My status is like the boss of that kind of bunch."

"So they're happy because their boss came back?"

"Exactly like that. Well, let's just ignore them. They will only make human with sharp spiritual sense feel anxious at best, there shouldn't be almost any real harm from it."

Almost. Then, what kind of exception case there was?

However, Ren noticed. Before he knew it Riona was staring still at him. Her eyes were like a hunter who was targeting a prey.

Ren smiled at his partner of betrothal that was formed from profit and loss calculation.

"Could it be Riona, you're feeling the usual?"

"Eh!? Ple, please don't misunderstand. It's not like I want Rokuhara-san's power or anything."

"Ah, as I thought."

"I, I told you that's not it!"

"Yep. But, that means yes isn't it?"

"....."

Riona turned bright red and fell silent. She averted her eyes.

It seemed it was just as he imagined. The Contract of Wings they exchanged at Sanctuary Midgard. Since then, Riona sometimes would be driven by an impulse to forcefully plunder the power of her “goshujin-sama” and attacked him at night—.

Surely this night she was also like that. Ren spoke cheerfully.

"How about we hug if you like? Perhaps Riona's feeling will also settle down with that."

"Thi, this is my house! My parents and little sister are also here, so I can't do something like that!"

"Surely everyone is sleeping. No one will see."

".....That's, well, that's true but"

Riona who was usually acting like a queen. However right now there was shame in her eyes.

And then, she slowly got closer while shuffling her feet bit by bit toward Rokuhara Ren—.

"I, I'll say this first but, it'll be just a hug."

"Of course."

"I won't tolerate taking any advantage during the confusion to do “anything else” like the other day. We'll only hug each other tightly, so....."

Riona muttered that while closing the distance.

But, her moist eyes were filled with passionate light. It even looked like she was going into a rampage—at that time.

BUooooooooooooN-! An exhaust sound came into haering.

Even though it was night, the sound came from inside the ground of Toba House—from the garage.

"!? It's Fumika, surely!"

"That girl? Why!?"

Riona gasped and started running. Ren also followed right behind her.

Like a house at countryside, the garage had two cars inside it. One car was an unfashionable white sedan that really looked like a family car. The second car was a red compact car, made in abroad—it was a stylishly designed and most likely it was made in Italia.

And then, the red car suddenly took off!

At that timing the car almost run over Ren and Riona to death when they came running there!

"Riona, watch out!"

"Rokuhara-san!?"

DON! Rokuhara Ren strongly pushed away his fiancée.

Riona weighed lightly with her slimness. She was able to get away from the car's course with that.

But, Ren was still on the course of the rampaging car. And then it was certainly Fumika who was on the driver's seat. She performed a terrific start dash with driving skill that was unthinkable from a middle school student—.

.....Ren used Nemesis's authority.

Compared to the gods and heroes he faced until now, the car was like a slowpoke.

Ren jumped away with composure and lightly dodged the charging car. If this authority was in activation, then even any kind of super speed could be easily seen through!

"Whoop—sie"

Ren lightly jumped and he didn't just dodge the car.

Toba Fumika was holding the wheel with a blank look—he ascertained her figure, in addition within an instant he was also grasping that all the windows of the car were fully opened.

The gap was terribly narrow. But if he was using the agility of Goddess Nemesis, he could do it—

With a swish Ren leaped into the window of the assistant driver seat using body movements that were like a panther.

"Wha, what're you planning, Rokuhara-san!?"

His fiancée's voice yelled from outside the car.

.

5

GUoooooOOOOOO-!

Fumika stepped on the gas and accelerated the car.

Her eyes were blank. Expressionless. She was only staring at where the car was going. She didn't even glance at Ren who suddenly leaped into the seat beside her.

Gouuuuuu! Gouuuuuu!

Inside the car, wind was blowing in strongly from the opened windows.

"Fumika-chan!?"

There was no reply. Fumika was wordlessly moving the wheel and stepped on the gas.

The red Italian car was charging through the night road, it was rapidly running on one side of the highway with two traffic lanes. Before he knew it trees were growing at the roadsides. The car was lightly climbing a mountain road.

It seemed that she was planning to cross the Ikoma Mountain.

The car passed through several curves with beautiful cornering.

Sometimes the car would even perform brilliant drift that swung around the car's body that the back of the car split through the centerline of the road. Even though she wasn't at the age that could take driving license, her driving technique was amazing. Ren groaned at its magnificence.

"Fumika-chan. Could it be you were taking on mountain pass to make delivery for the tofu seller!?"

Strong wind blew in noisily from the opened windows.

Ren raised his voice so that the wind wouldn't drown it, but Fumika didn't react as expected.

She didn't even send any glance at Ren beside her. She was focusing only at the front that was illuminated by light. Just what was going on with this girl who would become his sister-in-law one day?

[Rokuhara-san!]

Toba Riona's voice suddenly came into his ear. That was right. She and Ren could communicate with their mind even at distance using the Contract

of Wings.

"Just what's going on with your little sis!?"

[She is possessed. Surely it is by something among the spirits of the deceased I mentioned.]

"Eh? If I remember right you mentioned evil spirits of rivers and mountains, tree spirit, rough spirit, and what was it again?"

[It's ghost. I think that perhaps it's the soul of a street racer who died in accident from going too fast when taking on the mountain pass of Ikoma. There were many cars around here in the past that got into such accident.]

"Now that you mention it, I think I once heard from somewhere that Nara's Ikoma Mountain is a haunted place....."

[Actually there is also a lot of that kind of things here.]

"I seeee"

[And, just like how I am the reincarnation of Yatagarasu aka Kamo Taketsunumi no Mikoto—my little sister too is actually the incarnation of Tamayori Hime no Mikoto, someone with spiritual power related to Kamo clan.]

"Is that someone who is easy to get possessed by spirit?"

[Correct. Tama refer to mitama, spirit of deceased person. Than the “yori” come from the word “yori”, which mean the spirit is dwelling in that body. She is a shrine maiden who contain divine spirit in her body.]

Hearing that, Ren looked toward Fumika once more.

Hazy gaze, expression that was like a husk. However her handling on the wheel and shift lever was quick, and her whole body was wrapped in atmosphere that would only come from someone who had accumulated practices—.

She must be in a trance state due to the possession.

"Fumika-chan, is she often getting like this?"

[No. It will be a hindrance at her daily life if that's the case, so we made her to accumulate training moderately so that she become able to control her ability. We whipped up this lazy child.]

"Whip?"

[Yes. She is fundamentally a girl who doesn't want to do any strict training. Recently she must be using the chance of my absence to watch anime or her heap of treasured video nonstop until late at night with no one to supervise her. Because her stamina is down due to her lack of sleep, she got taken over by a mere rough spirit like this!]

"Hahahaha, so she is that kind of girl."

Ren smiled wryly and changed the subject.

"Anyway, it will be bad if we don't stop the car soon isn't it?"

[Most likely. That spirit, it most likely possess a driver running on the mountain pass and make them get into accident—it's a really unpleasant type.]

"If I'm alone then I'll somehow make it but, if Fumika-chan is together with me like this....."

Opening the door of the running car and jumped outside.

Normal people would be seriously wounded or died. However Ren had the agility of Goddess Nemesis. If he was thrown out to the ground or road, just before he collided he could activate his ability—

He would be able to easily land with the agility and speed like lightning.

However, he was unable to jump out while carrying Fumika.

Just as Riona saw through at Sanctuary Midgard, it would be a dangerous act where [how far he jumped the future would be unpredictable].

For now—Ren shook Fumika's right shoulder.

"Fumika-chan. Fumika-chan."

"Eh.....huh? Ro, Rokuhara-san, isn't it.....?"

Fortunately Fumika returned to her senses.

Ren smiled at his sister-in-law who was staring in wonder at him.

"Yep. But, I won't mind if you call me Onii-chan you know?"

"Ye, yes, Onii-san. But why are we riding on a car—wait, KYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!? Why am I driving!?"

Fumika recovered her consciousness and went into panic.

But, her limbs even now were skillfully driving the car with the movement of a skilled driver.

"It seems you are getting possessed by a bad spirit. Could it be, it's still inside Fumika-chan?"

"I, it's inside-. Ah, no good, I can't chase it out-. Wha-wha-wha-what to do, at this rate we might die from accident. If Onee-chan know this I'll be called a novice and get scoldeed~!"

[Onee-sama already learn it since the beginning. I am really angry here.....]

Fumika lamented her limbs that couldn't move freely and became half-tearful.

On the other hand, Riona whispered with a voice that was sent only to Ren.

[Rokuhara-san. I'm pursuing the car too right now. I'll exorcise the spirit as soon as I catch up, so please wait.]

"Ah it's fine. I can manage somehow by myself, I think."

["Eh"]

The voices from Fumika at the driver's seat and Riona were surprised.

But, there was no time to waste for explaining. Ren told the "other fellow passenger".

"Stella. I want you to lend my your power."

"Yes yes. You got dragged into something strange aren't you, Ren."

On the lap of Ren who was sitting at the assistant driver's seat, a small goddess with the height of 30 cm appeared.

Stella aka the goddess of love Aphrodite. He had a communion of mind with mind with her who could be said as his other self. Stella seemed to guess Ren's intention without needing explanation and nodded briskly to him.

In contrast, Fumika who was driving opened her eyes wide.

"EEEEEH!? That person, is she shikigami or fairy—no, could she be a god, or something!?"

"To actually realize that, even rotten you are still that bird girl's little sister it seems."

"Rot—!? I, it's amazing that I was seen through so deeply like that-"

"? Well it doesn't matter. Girl, I'll recognize you as a shrine maiden of moderate capability, I shall allow you to be my frie.....no, appoint you as one of my attendants. Now offer me something useful to show your gratitude."

The belt of Stella who declared haughtily shined in rose color.

It was Rokuhara Ren's second authority, the Circle of Friendship. Usually this was when she would pester a god for present, but this time she was facing a human. She told her to offer her something.

"U.....useful thing, like what?"

Ren smiled at the bewildered Fumika.

"She mean the cause that drove you into this situation. Give that thing to me."

"Ye——yes—"

Fumika still didn't know about Rokuhara Ren's authority.

However, it seemed she had become unable to care about the details under this extreme situation. The moment Ren's hand was placed on her right shoulder, she tightly closed her eyes and focused her mind.

"Yosh!"

Ren nodded.

Several sentiments were flowing into him.

A wish to pursue speed. A wish to take on the mountain. A wish to make someone else to experience the same thing like him. However, sentiments of this degree wouldn't be able to rule over Rokuhara Ren who was a godslayer.

Ren instantly subdued the spirit before immediately moving toward Fumika.

"It'll be a bit cramped, but endure it slightly!"

"I, I'm fine!"

Ren pushed Fumika toward the driver seat's door and grasped the steering wheel.

The evil spirit had nasty characteristic but it at least had splendid driving technique—that technique now belonged to Rokuhara Ren temporarily.

A sharp curve that was forming an “U” shape was coming at that timing.

The car passed the curve through an ideal track of out-in-out smoothly.

And then he slowly decreased the speed and stopped the car on the shoulder of the road—.

"Uuuu.....we're saved....."

"Are you alright, Fumika-chan?"

"Ye, yes, Onii-san....."

"Wait a second, little girl! What is your intention hugging Ren amidst the confusion!?"

Stella raised the corner of her eyes on the assistant driver's seat.

Fumika who had exhausted her vigor and perseverance leaned on Ren wearily. She placed her whole weight on him. If he remembered correctly he heard that she was at the third year of her middle school. However compared to her slim big sister, the little sister had a glamorous body style that was unthinkable for a 14 or 15 years old girl.



"Oh. It seems the evil spirit has vanished."

The sentiments running inside Ren were vanishing.

Perhaps the inside of a godslayer's body was terribly unpleasant for it. And then, Fumika powerlessly muttered while leaning on Ren.

"Thank you, everything is thanks to Onii-san..... But, what kind of person Rokuhara-san is to be able to use a god's power.....?"

"It will be long to talk about that."

A blue swallow swooped down on the car's bumper at that timing.

It was the transformed figure of Fumika's big sister. Ren decided to leave the explaining to the little sister at Riona and made a carefree smile.

It would be great if the troubles at Japan could be taken care of lightly in this manner but—.

.

6

At the dead of night.

At the eastern tip of Kii Peninsula, the coast of Shichirimihama that was facing Kumano Sea.

There was a rock cliff rising steeply here. It was a gigantic stone that was assimilated into a section of the mountain, with a height that surprisingly almost reached 50 meter. Its appearance was grand and impressive.

It was a huge rock that was worshipped since ancient time as a holy object, a vessel where god was residing.

There was also human settlement nearby. But surrounded by a deep forest and mountains, the character of a place couldn't be said as having plenty of population. Furthermore it was late at night.

People rarely came at this kind of time, but,

"Next time we will defeat Toba Riona without fail and recover our honor..... If not we won't be able to face the pioneer of Kumano's crow sect!"

"Young master!""Young master!""Young master!"

The gathered men were all young and numbered around twenty.

They were gathering in front of the grand wall of giant rock of the aforementioned steep cliff. In this scenery and black of night, the crow sect members were engrossing themselves into a magical ceremony while the sea breeze was hitting them.

"According to the book——"

"When Izanagi no Mikoto gave birth to the god of fire, she was burned and departed from this world."

"Therefore, she was buried and enshrined in Arima village of the country of Kiino....."

Everyone became united and chanted with their whole body and heart.

It was the words of power of the goddess, Izanagi no Mikoto.

She was the goddess who gave birth to the country as foretold in Japanese mythology. She created the land of their mother the country of Japan, and later on she was reduced into a corrupted existence——.

"In the local customs, in order to worship the soul of this god, worship her with flower at the time of flower....."

"Also, with hand drum and flag, sing, dance, worship....."

A hard to believe change was starting.

The wall shaped huge rock with width of twenty meter and a height that was twice that was——

Floating toward the air. Slowly, slowly, the stone wall that must be weighing several thousand tons was slowly taking its time, little by little. While dropping pebbles of various sizes to the ground. Little by little, little by little.....

The distance between the ground and the huge rock that was floating high in the sky had been opened greatly until it looked like another rock of the same size could be put in between.

"The sacred treasure Thousand Pulling Stone originally was a secret stone that was born from this large rock——. In that case, if we bring out this large rock that is also a holy object, we won't lose even against Toba Riona!"

Azukai Takeru was elated with triumph while looking up at the floating huge rock.

The casters of Kumano mustered the words of power further under their leader.

"This lowly self wish to reverently state in the presence of Izanami....."

"The divine spirit of life submerging this heaven and earth"

"Now is the time to humbly present to the deifying festival——"

And then, they didn't notice.

That there was a girl watching over the ceremony from start to end from a slight distance away.

"Fuh"

She was a goddess possessing silver hair that was similar to the radiance of moon and eyes with color of darkness.

"When I tried coming here attracted by a new sanctuary.....and the scent of death, I witnessed this strange matter."

The divine princess of Zeus. The goddess of wisdom and war Athena.

The person who possessed that divine name scornfully laughed at the foolishness of humans and pitied them.

"Does these lots not noticed? The fact that they are opening the door to the realm of the death."

There was something that became exposed as the result of the large rock floating to the air.

It was a large hole that was gouged on the ground. The inside became a sloping road, continuing deeply, deeply, until the bottom of the earth from its appearance.

The scent of miasma leaking out from the hole felt vaguely nostalgic to Athena.

"Fufufufu. This scent is really nostalgic for us goddesses who are the daughter of the earth. Let me see, I shall survey it with one of my eyes....."

Athena transformed into the bird of wisdom that soared through the night—an owl.

She flapped her wings and flew into the hole at the ground. Non of the humans focusing into the ceremony noticed the owl flying.

But it couldn't be helped. After all they were children of man who pitifully ought to die.

There was no way they would be able to do a blasphemy like directly seeing a goddess slipping into the darkness of the night.

"Hou, I see!"

Athena was gazing in wonderment the instant she descended to underground as an owl.

The spiritual sense of the goddess who was well versed with every kind of knowledge was coming into play and she obtained a new wisdom.

"The sanctuary stretching ahead of this hole is——called the Yomotsuhirasaka huh."

Chapter 3 – At the Realm of the Dead

1

The headquarter of the Institution of Divinities that only looked like a historical old temple from the outsider point of view—.

It was protected by a barrier that drove away people. Knowledge of magic was necessary just in order to perceive the building itself. Multitude of magical protections were installed outside and inside the headquarter.

In fact, it was a place that was endowed with a defensive power that rivaled a fortress.

However yesterday those protections were thoroughly wrecked. While it was the head temple of Japan's magic society, all of the spells in it were completely erased.

Because of that—the defenses had to be casted once more with their pride on the line.

In the headquarter of the Institution of Divinities, the fire altar that was set up at one of its corners was burning grandly.

Monks with excellent power of Buddhism, people with spiritual power, magic casters, all of them were surrounding the flame and chanting mantra with undivided intention and harmonious tempo.

—Naumakusanmanda Basaradan Senda.....

—Makaroshada Soutaya Untarata Kanman.....

—Naumakusanmanda Bazaradan Kan.....

It was mantra that was dedicated to the Wisdom King Acala.

In addition, the chanting casters were forming complicated shapes with their fingers as mudra handseal. Dokko handseal, Houzan seal, Kumitsu seal, Shinmitsu seal, Kaen seal, Shishi Funjin seal, and so on. They interweaved the mudra handseals as sustenance for the esoteric Buddhist ritual.

Everything was in order to not let the disgrace yesterday to be repeated.

And then, inside the hall located deep inside the temple—.

The discussion that was the continuation of yesterday regarding the heaven-sent-child of Yatagarasu, Toba Riona was going on. Today there was one more person, a guest from abroad who was participating.

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"Now then. It's not like it's necessary to receive the consent of everyone here. But just in case, allow me to present the report as the leader of Campiones association. Regarding the engagement of a member of our association Rokuhara Ren and Toba Riona....."

"Wait a second. You, Blandelli-kun."

As usual Julio Blandelli started talking like an "intelligent young noble".

The one interrupting him was one of the directors of the Institution of Divinities.

"Toba Riona is an outstanding talent who can even be said as the greatest treasure of the land of the gods Japan. There is no way we will allow her to be wed with a riffraff who is affiliated with a foreign association!"

Riona was facing the directors of the Institution of Divinities inside the same room like yesterday.

However her attire was different. It wasn't her best clothes that were set aside for important occasion, it was her uniform blazer. The one that she

wore even at Troia and Midgard.

And then, there was Julio who joined up with her several hours ago.

He arrived at Kansai Airport last night. He stayed the night in a hotel near the airport before going until the headquarter at Arashiyama. It shouldn't be strange even if he was affected by a terrible jetlag but——

Julio was speaking smartly in his completely usual mode.

"Romance and marriage ought to be done by the mutual wish of both sides. That is the common sense of this age and the norm of the world. Japan is also a modern nation, furthermore it's an advanced country, so naturally I believe that freedom of love ought to be respected here."

‘Fuh’. Julio casually distorted his lips into a faint sneer.

"It seems that the old people gathered here are different. How old-fashioned."

"Our country and the Institution of Divinities have tradition that shouldn't be desecrated. There are social rules. An insolent fellow who came from other country has no right to say anything."

"It's just a tradition that won't bring any problem even if it got reformed anyway."

Julio easily rephrased his opinion.

"I'll recognize that the principle of *jus sanguinis* is quite effective for securing talented magicians. But according to the modern research——it came to light that rather than bloodline, the cause of the birth of practitioner with talent in a magical household lies in the 『family tradition』 instead. What's important is fermenting the child's mental world with training from his early childhood and bring up a soul that is fitting for walking the path of sorcery."

"I've never heard of anything like that!"

"How uneducated. It seems that you have never taken a look at the research report that we, the associations throughout Europe periodically published."

"I told you already that this is the tradition of Japan!"

The Latino youth repeatedly provoked with a hypocritical courtesy. The directors were unanimously ranting at him.

Julio who declared that he was picking a fight with them grinned fearlessly.

"I remember. Some time ago, there was this news—of salt getting scattered to purify a ring of the professional sumo wrestling that just got entered by a woman by those extolling the prohibition on women entering for religious reasons. This news spread to outside Japan and it became a target of criticism. People wondered if the Japanese regarded woman as dirty existence....."

"Fool. Sumo is a Shinto ritual."

"Umu. It's astonishing that you can prattle to sound smart when you don't even know the concept of impurity that exist in Japan from time immemorial."

"No, I'm aware."

The directors acted like they had triumphed over Julio's ignorance, but Julio spoke calmly.

"There was the view that the origin of the word impurity came from the phrase of 『withering ki』. Ki is the vitality of life. In other words impurity isn't a physical pollution, but a concept that vaguely indicated to 『thing that threaten life』 or 『thing that is associated with danger to life』."

The Latino young noble took a breath, and then he continued further.

"That's why corpse and bloodshed are also impurity. Epidemic is also impurity. Revengeful ghost and tatari-kami are also impurity. Even human

who unfortunately fell into sickness and survived is also impurity. Even the accident itself is also impurity....."

As expected from the heir of Blandelli house that had deep relations even with Japan's clan.

He easily ward off the counterattack and commenced to hti back.

"An old man got heart attack on a sumo ring and a woman came up on the ring in order to give emergency first aid. After that purifying salt was scattered. It wasn't because of the violation of the prohibition of women entering, it was to purify the impurity due to the misfortune—. Certainly that kind of excuse could be used. But, how would such thing be reflected in the eyes of the foreign countries?"

Julio looked around at the gathered old people.

"I believe that the thinking that foreign pressure can be avoided just by insisting that this is Japan is being a bit overly optimistic. It's too inconsiderate in the arena of politic."

"Politic you say?"

"That's right. For example the space distortions that are frequently occurring in the world right now. Will you be able to face the calamity that is caused by the connection of earth and mythological world by using only 『Japan's tradition』 too?"

"Of.....course we can."

"In fact Toba Riona succeeded in her mission."

"True. However, that was because she obtained the cooperation of our Campiones association and Rokuhara Ren."

"No Julio. At best I was only assisting him. Rather Rokuhara-san—my beloved fiancée is the actual main actor in resolving the space distortions."

The time for her to speak finally came. Riona smoothly spoke.

"Honorable directors. Rokuhara Ren don't have any spiritual power or talent in magic from his birth. But, he possesses a tremendous talent—that he obtained in posteriority."

All the old directors held their breath.

It was because Riona's eyes were shining blue. This time she intentionally unleashed her full power. She applied pressure like that and spoke further.

"An ability to prevent the destruction of mythological word and to fight equally even against the gods. An abnormal ability that make it possible to murder even god. Well, the children of him and me surely won't inherit that ability but.....I believe this is essential in order to save the world and Japan."

"And then, it's none other than Toba Riona who can become the best partner for Rokuhara Ren."





Julio also immediately joined in.

"Don't you think that in this situation things like lineage preservation and tradition should be set aside to focus on politics? In order to save your 『beautiful land of abundant rice』 from the unprecedented calamity and national disaster."

"I have.....one thing to ask."

One of the directors opened his mouth with a heavy tone.

He must have started to notice. That Riona=sacred bird Yatagarasu became able to unleash her full ability by her own will. The color of fear was visible in the eyes of the directors.

"The ability of this Rokuhara Ren, what could it be.....?"

"A good question. Actually we have arranged for a practical demonstration right now."

Riona's wristwatch showed the time was 2 PM. It was finally "the time".

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"Thank you very much. For preparing confections again like this."

"Fufufufu. It's fine, I am also happy to be able to meet the two of you once more."

In a room of the headquarter of the Institution of Divinities.

Ren was sitting in seiza posture with good manner within a tearoom that had pleasant autumn breeze blowing through.

There was "Hinako-sama" in front of him. She was an old lady who was the boss of the Institution of Divinities and even possessed a title like princess shrine maiden. Today she was also wearing Japanese clothes and treated them to matcha and traditional Japanese confectioneries.

"Lo, long time no see, Hinako-sama-"

The second daughter of Toba house, Fumika also gave her greeting while feeling really nervous.

She was brought here by her big sister in order to encourage her. She was dressed in the uniform of a local middle school. And then there was one more of Ren's comrade here.

"I'm also very happy to be able to meet with grandmother once more♪"

Perhaps these two got along well with each other as fellow noble daughter with good upbringing.

Cassandra's expression was bright. Hinako-sama also squinted and smiled happily at the words of Troia's princess.

"Thank you. If you like, you can sit comfortably anytime."

"Yes♪"

She was giving consideration to Cassandra who was awkwardly imitating the seiza posture.

By the way Hinako-sama gave consideration to the "foreign" princess and expressly provided a drink "similar" with matcha mixed with cream, milk, and sugar.

Ren casually begged at the kind old lady.

"By the way, if you don't mind, can I also call you Hinako-sama?"

"Yes, of course. You are Rokuhara Ren-san aren't you? Also I've heard, people said, that you are the fiancée of that Riona-san?"

"Yeah. So you've learned of it already?"

"Actually, there are a lot of gramps here who are saying mean things about you two..... I will cheer for the two of you although it will be in

secret!"

"I'm also feeling reassured to hear Hinako-sama say that."

"Also, Ren-san. Today you mustn't do "that" you know?"

Hinako-sama smiled brightly and she suddenly warned him.

"I don't know how but, the one who erased all the barriers in this Institution of Divinities—was you correct?"

"Oh my. Grandmother, so you realized that!"

"O, Onii-san-. You can even do something amazing like that-!?"

Cassandra and Fumika were surprised. And then Ren was—

"And because of that Hinako-sama covered up for us yesterday. Let me give my thanks to you once more."

Ren nonchalantly replied with a casual language. Hinako-sama was smiling.

It seemed there was no problem. Actually he had been looking for the timing to switch his speaking from polite language to casual language. It would be easier to talk like that and in order to become closer with her.

"Don't do that Ren-san. The scary gramps were saying that it's not enough to just return the barriers like before, they're increasing the setup even more."

"What kind of setup is that?"

"The person who attack the barrier—will have the curse of retribution descending on them. It's that kind of protective spell."

"Hee. That's the same like my power!"

Ren was impressed. It was then. Outside the tearoom, a young man came from the nearby garden.

"Hinako-sama. I came visiting, because there is something that I wish to obtain permission about by all means."

"Oh, isn't this Asukai's....."

That young man, he was wearing a slightly dirty robe of Shinto priest.

There were dark circle under his eyes. His cheeks were also gaunt, he looked haggard. It was as though he was suffering from a serious illness.

At the same time with his entrance—the atmosphere of the garden turned impure.

Ren looked dubious. Even the kind Hinako-sama seemed to feel the same thing and frowned.

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2

When speaking about Togetsu Bridge of Arashiyama, it was a famous place that bridged over Katsura River.

The time-worn wooden bridge had a total length of around 150 meter. The water volume of Katsura River wasn't abundant by all means, there were sandbanks forming here and there. But, the river's width was quite something.

And then—

There was the bank of Katsura River if one went around to the back of the headquarter of the Institution of Divinities.

The Institution of Divinities was blending with complete harmony into the scenery of this river and mountain that would be decorated with the red

leaves of late autumn before long.

A gigantic stone suddenly appeared right at the middle of that Katsura River.

The stone suddenly soared up toweringly like a stone wall. It split the flow of Katsura River into two. Its height was approximately fifty meter while its width was around half of it.

The stone that was towering like a cliff wall there was the sacred treasure, the main body of the Thousand Pulling Stone.

It accomplished instant teleportation using power of divine mystery and crossed space from Kumano until Kyoto's Arashiyama.

Asukai Takeru—the leader of Kumano's crow sect who entered the Institution of Divinities right nearby summoned it here.

The huge stone Thousand Pulling Stone was starting to emit repulsive miasma. The muddy smoke with faint white color should beckon annihilation even here. Furthermore it would be far more repulsive and impure compared to what Ren and co had witnessed several days ago.

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"Azukai-san. You, have broken a taboo haven't you?"

"This too is in order to obtain revenge toward Toba Riona—and the strange duo over there. Please be magnanimous and forgive me, Hinako-sama."

"My. You are even involving Ren-san and Cassandra-san....."

"We have to protect the honor of our clan!"

Hinako-sama used a hard tone. In respond Azukai what's-his-name answered while prostrating.

The young man who originated from Kumano was enveloped in strangely gloomy aura today.

If it was expressed in color, then it would be black without a doubt. It was a presence that could even be said as sinister and repulsive. Perhaps because of that Fumika shrunk back saying "Hih".

"What's wrong, Fumika-chan?"

"A, around that person there is an outrageously strong miasma..... It's like the gate of hell itself opened and his body and heart are soaked in it....."

"So it's the same thing like what we saw in Tokyo the other day."

"Ah, I remember! Ren-sama. That person, he is undoubtedly the man we encountered at Toukyou before this!"

Cassandra and Ren were calm in contrast of the fearful Fumika. As expected, the number and quality of carnage they had overcome were different.

On the other hand, Hinako-sama and the young man who was called Azukai were looking grave.

"Hinako-sama, please I beg you for the permission to release the secret power of the goddess Izanami in this Institution of Divinities!"

Mr. Azukai who was so gaunt he looked pitiful kept prostrating while pleading.

But, the expression he directed at Hinako-sama was simply brazen. The old lady who should be a graceful person glared at that face and scolded.

"You must not. That's a might of god that cannot be controlled by human!"

"That's exactly why it will be able to oppose even Yatagarasu!"

The gentle and playful face of the old lady completely changed into a strict look.

Young man Azukai gave a tragic but brave look while brimming with unshakeable determination.

And then Rokuhara Ren—checked the pocket watch that he borrowed from his future father-in-law. 2 PM. The time finally arrived.

The intermission drama here was still going on, but he had to do his work as the 『leading actor』 soon.

Ren smiled cordially while forcefully interrupting.

"Sorry Hinako-sama. About your advise just now, I couldn't listen to it. Our strategy for the people of the Institution of Divinities is to 『flashily show the difference in strength』. Also, the mister over there. Riona right now is busy.....that's why I'll keep you company by myself. Sorry for that okay?"

Hinako-sama and Azukai what's-his-name were looking astonished and bewildered.

Yesterday—

Ren negated numerous protective spells that were applied to the headquarter of Institution of Divinities without realizing it. This time he just needed to do the same thing intentionally.

He started to lightly concentrate. Well, there was no need to go full strength.

Ren relaxed his shoulders and roused up the strength inside him—*prang-*. All kinds of spells were entirely blown away once more like breaking a glass.

Right after that.

"Ren-san!?"

"Onii-san is in disaster-. Fire extinguisher! Also, if we don't quickly escape!?"

Fumika and Hinako-sama yelled in panic.

It was because Ren who was sitting seiza on the tearoom's tatami—his whole body was burning with bluish white flame.

The bluish white flame roared until the ceiling with fierceness that swallowed the whole tearoom. However it didn't burn the frightened Fumika and others inside the room. As expected from the flame of divine punishment.

However Cassandra didn't even try to move away. She was looking at the flame with great curiosity.

Ren himself was also staring in admiration at his whole body that was blazing blue.

"So this is these people's "retribution"."

"It seems to be the flame of justice and punishment. When I'm staring at this flame, the divine figure of a war god is forming in my heart. He has blue skin and a whole body that is clad in fire!"

"Hee. I wonder what kind of god he is."

Ren and Cassandra were acting natural just like usual as before.

It was because they knew. That just this much didn't have any hope to burn the body of godslayer. In fact, Ren slightly heightened his magic power and negated the blue flame of justice.

Hinako-sama praised him with a shaking voice.

"No way. The blaze of Acala is so easily—"

"Tsk. Using a strange technique like usual. But, look at that!"

Azukai what's-his-name clicked his tongue at the garden. But, he immediately pulled himself together and strongly pointed at a certain direction.

That direction should be Katsura River that was flowing right nearby the headquarter.

"I also showed you the Thousand Pulling Stone before didn't I? This time it's not a fragment like that time. We focused the total energy of the whole crow sect and bring it until this place!"

"What terrifying thing....."

Hinako-sama shook her head seeing the boasting young man.

"To bring the sacred treasure that was worshipped as the lid of the realm of the dead to outside its land! This is an accursed thing you have done, know shame!"

"Everything is in order to bring down the punishment on Toba Riona, forgive us!"

The young man didn't look guilty at the slightest even with that scolding.

And then—Ren noticed.

This garden of Institution of Divinities was a well maintained Japanese garden.

It was an ancient temple of Kyoto in Arashiyama. The period of red leaves in full-blown should be arriving soon. But.

The leaves of the trees growing in the area were falling before their eyes. The trunks were also thinning and drying up.

Moisture was also vanishing from the ground and cloud of dust whirled up.

.....When Ren checked it later, this strange phenomenon wasn't limited to the Institution of Divinities, it dragged in almost the whole Arashiyama.

The miasma of the realm of the dead that snatched away life filled this land and finally invited in many deaths.

Furthermore, that culprit was chanting a spell.

"This lowly self wish to reverently state in the presence of Izanami..... the divine spirit of life submerging this heaven and earth, now is the time to humbly present to the deifying festival, display the miraculous and exquisite grand divine virtues of the god here!"

".....That's a bit different from the other day."

Ren murmured.

Surprisingly, 『demonesses』 surged out from the ground that was filled with miasma.

They had terrifying look. Their lips were greatly torn, with an extremely ferocious expression. Their loose and disheveled hair was long and unkempt.

Their fangs and claws were also sharp, furthermore their body was huge. Their height must be reaching three meter.

Their body that was covered with ragged cloth was certainly that of a woman. But their skin was white like corpse. The rotten smell rising up from their whole body pierced the nose—.

The deformed demonesses surging out from the ground numbered eight.

Hinako-sama was dumbfounded and rebuked Azukai what's-his-name.

"Manifesting Yomotsu Shikome like this, you, just what is your intention!?"

"Hahahaha. If it's the monsters I brought from Yomotsuhirasaka, then even opposing Yatagarasu and her followers will be possible—o, OOOOOOOH!?"

A demoness reached out with her muscular hand and grabbed young man Azukai in an eagle grip—

Crack. Crack.

She munched at his whole head.

The young man lost all his upper body in just two bites. Only his waist below remained from his body. The magician of Kumano had his life stolen by the monster that he summoned himself.

"It's pitiful but, this is what they call reaping what you sow....."

"It's truly a just retribution....."

"Ky, KYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!? O-O-O-O-Onii-san, and also Cassandra-san too, we have to run away quickly! Yomotsu Shikome is Japan's version of zombie!"

Fumika was screaming beside Ren and Cassandra who were commenting calmly.

Although she was a daughter of Toba House, it seemed she didn't have as much courage as her big sister. Riona was outside the norm in every kind of senses so this was understandable though.

Ren spoke in order to reassure his future sister-in-law.

"There is no danger, so just wait here for a bit."

It seemed that it would be better to quickly take care of this. He went out to the garden alone.

In that moment—

The eight Yomotsu Shikome simultaneously flew at Ren. Surprisingly, the demonesses were fast like lightning.

"Hee. So Japan's zombie isn't slowpoke huh....."

"Onii-san, run!"

When Fumika yelled in worry, Ren already got away.

He slipped through the attacks from eight opponents with the agility of Goddess Nemesis and lightly jumped up until above the roof of Institution of Divinities.

"The goddess of revenge will hand down divine punishment to misdeed that harm life—. I wish for the punishment of justice right here."

Ren joined his index finger and middle finger in front of his face and spoke the words of power of retribution.

Fortunately the "stock" that he accumulated from Sanctuary Midgard was remaining. The numerous lightning attacks that godslayer Marquis Voban fired out.

He made only one of them to fall from the sky and burned away the Yomotsu Shikome altogether.

The calamity befalling Rokuhara Ren could be kept for around half a month.

"Oh. Riona also came out."

Ren smiled while looking up to the sky from the roof.

The golden phoenix was slowly flying at the sky above the area of Arashiyama that was filled with miasma. The spread out wings scattered a great amount of "fire sparks" to the ground.

The spirit of fire and sun Yatagarasu was sending down the essence of sun.

『Land and air that are polluted by the miasma of death—I'll purify them now.』

"As expected from Riona. Her consideration is also perfect."

Ren exchanged telepathy with his soaring fiancée and nodded.

When he noticed, there were a lot of people coming out to the garden of the Institution of Divinities.

Old and past middle aged directors who had presence to them. Dozens of staffs that seemed to be permanently stationed here. There was also Seishuuin Maki who was a supervisor. Hinako-sama and also Toba Fumika—.

Everyone was staring at Rokuhara Ren who was above the roof with gaze of wonder.

"Ren-san. That power of yours....."

"A warrior who usurped the divine authority of the gods by murdering a god. The beast of godslaying. An existence that should be worshipped as demon king, just like the founder of our Campiones association....."

Julio also came beside Hinako-sama.

"The godslayer Rokuhara Ren who possessed god's authority. Please remember that from here on."

"Godslayer—?"

Hinako-sama gasped and opened her eyes wide from the greeting of the Latino young noble.

Ren looked down at that from the rooftop and muttered to himself.

"Will various things get taken care of with the Institution of Divinities like this?"

『I believe it will.』

The telepathy of Riona sounded like a whisper into his ear.

She was staying in her Yatagarasu form while leisurely soaring right now. However, the sky was shrouded with dark cloud when he noticed. Her radiance figure looked even more standing out.

『A more troublesome looking quarrel seem to be occurring right now after all. Even the big shots of the Institution of Divinities won't have any leeway to grumble more than this.』

"That huh....."

Ren who was on the roof noticed.

A large rock that was like a steep cliff was standing high inside the Katsura River that was flowing behind the headquarter. It was something that shouldn't be there. There was no doubt that it was dragged here from somewhere using magic or miracle.

And then, due to the miasma leaking out from the huge stone——

The vegetations of the surrounding area were withering.

"Looks like it will be impossible to watch the autumn lea at this area this year."

『It'll be great if it's only this year though.....』

A thought that was like Cassandra's prophecy of calamity came from Riona.

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3

Sanctuary Yomotsuhirasaka——.

It was a sanctuary that should be named like that by the people of the surface.

As a world of mythology, as expected there were also gods living there. A section of the myth should be in the middle of reenactment there as 『a happening that was going on right now』 .

In fact, a tale that was widely known by Japanese people was currently unfolding there.

"My dear Izanami. I've come to bring you back. Let's go home together."

"O my husband Izanagi. I'm really happy to hear those words. But it's unfortunate. That is a request that cannot be granted....."

It was deep inside the earth, a territory that was ruled by darkness.

Because of that it was also called as country of night view, underworld, etc.

The name of the man who was delving into the cave that connected to deep into the underground by himself was Izanagi. The father god of country founding who created Japan's domain.

In the middle of that cave, a stone door was closed and he couldn't advance further.

The voice of the mother of country founding, his dead wife Izanami could be heard from the other side of the door.

"My beloved. Why didn't you come for me earlier? How many months has passed since I left you behind and fell into the realm of the dead..... I already ate the food of the realm of the dead and became impure since a long time ago."

The goddess Izanami was sobbing while crying.

The stone door was slightly opened. Izanagi certainly heard her beautiful voice. He also certainly saw the silhouette of a woman weeping behind the

door, inside the darkness.

"Please give up. An impure body won't be allowed to return to the surface."

"What are you saying. I'm feeling unbearable loneliness because of losing you! Even the country that us husband and wife were trying to create won't be finished like this you know?"

"Aa Izanagi, my husband!"

The dead goddess hid inside the darkness and sobbed for a while, then her heart calmed down.

".....My beloved, I too wish to return to your side. I don't know how it will go, but I will go consulting the god of the underworld. I'll ask him to please return me to the surface."

"Oo!"

"But, I beg you. This door that separate me and you, it mustn't be opened. I don't want you to look at my body that has fallen into this underworld....."

After saying that, his beloved wife left into the darkness.

The father of country founding Izanagi waited for much time after that. He was continuing to wait day by day. However, no matter how long he waited his wife didn't return.....

"Then"

Seeking his wife, Izanagi opened the door.

The darkness of the depth of the earth stood in his way. He took the wooden comb holding his hair and snapped just one of the comb's teeth and lit it on fire. He made a fire.

Relying on that light, he advanced deeper and deeper. Searching for his wife Izanami—.

Thus, he finally found her.

"What the, you are!?"

"You saw didn't you, my husband....."

The rotting corpse of a woman—was illuminated by the fire.

Flesh was rotting off everywhere, the white of her bones became exposed. Countless maggots were crawling on that rotten limbs, making rumbling sound that sounded like thunder.....

"Didn't you promise me....."

"Don't tell me you're—Izanami, my wife?"

"I didn't want to show this rotten body only to you!"

"To think that one who fell into the underworld will be corrupted to this degree....."

"Even though I told you not to look why are you lookingggggggggg!?"

"You're noisy, damn monster! The soul of my wife Izanami has disappeared since long ago!"

The dead wife went into a fit of anger, while the husband who broke his promise became defiant—

He ran away with all his strength. He left behind his once wife in a corner of the dark cave and ran to return alone to the surface.

The goddess Izanami who changed into a fierce god chased after her husband in rage.

"Where're you going, my husbaaaaaandd!"

Run. Run. The father of founding country ran with all his might.

He desperately aimed toward the surface. He turned his back toward his once wife Izanami and ran.

"Yokotsu Shikome, chase him!"

The dead Izanami ordered. The swarm of demonesses was unleashed.

The extremely ugly women with terrifying face and strong body surged out from the ground. There were dozens of them. The female demons dashed for a long distance in the blink of eye.

The father Izanagi threw the hair ornament and comb of repelling evil.

Crimson glory vine grew from the hair ornament that was made from knitting vines, while bamboo shoot grew from the wooden comb. The Yokotsu Shikome greedily devoured them.

The husband aimed toward the surface using that opening. The dead Izanami unleashed even more pursuer toward him.

"Ooikazuchi, Honoikazuchi, Kuroikazuchi, Sakuikazuchi, Wakaikazuchi, Tsuchiikazuchi, Naruikazuchi, Fushiikazuchi—my sons the eight lightning gods!"

Eight streaks of lightning were fired from the whole body of the rotting goddess.

In addition decomposing swarm of corpses was crawling out from underground. With great number, they formed a troop of 1500 bodies.

Their name was Yomotsu Ikusa.

It was a fierce army of the dead, led by the eight lightning gods who were born in the realm of the dead.

Even while under the pursuit of this large army, the father Izanagi somehow escaped to the hill road that connected the underworld with the

surface world. It was Yomotsu Hirasaka.

And then, the father of country founding turned his eyes toward the peach tree growing at the hill road.

"Thy—shall purify and exorcise!"

Together with the words of power of repelling evil, a peach fruit was thrown amidst the Yomotsu Ikusa.

*GYAAAAAAH! GYAAAAAAH! GYAAAAAAH! GYAAAAAAH!
GYAAAAAAH! GYAAAAAAH! GYAAAAAAH!*

The terrifying swarm of the dead feared the peach of repelling evil and screamed.

They scattered to everywhere like baby spiders.

"Finally the surface.....I've returned back to our country!"

The father Izanagi was relieved and felt triumphant.

At the entrance of Yomotsuhirasaka, there was an absurdly large rock at the side.

One had to look up at the rectangle wall of rock. It was called the Thousand Pulling Stone. It was named so because it would finally move only with a thousand people pulling it.

The father of country founding Izanagi started pushing the Thousand Pulling Rock.

Using the robust herculean strength of god, the huge rock was starting to move little by little—.

"There are still things that I have to do at the surface! My dear, I'll block the entrance of Yomotsuhirasaka with the Stone of Path Returning!"

"How pathetic can you be my husband!"

The voice of the goddess rose from the cavern that was getting blocked by the large stone.

"I resent you, mine husband! Then I shall strangle to death one thousand people of the surface each day without fail!"

"In that case my dear!"

The father Izanagi also talked back resolutely.

"I shall give rise to a thousand and five hundred people each day!"

And then, the entrance of Yomotsuhirasaka was sealed by the Thousand Pulling Stone, and the realm of the death at the bottom of the earth was separated from the surface for eternity—or that was how it should be.

"Hou. So there was someone like Orpheus at this country too."

The grand quarrel of married couple by the gods of country founding.

There was an owl that was looking down at everything from the sky. The poet Orpheus. He was mentioned in the mythology of ancient Greek as a master of lyre. However he descended to the realm of the dead in order to take back his dead wife and failed. He was told that he mustn't look back no matter what until he returned to the surface. If he could do that then his wife would be returned to him, the god of the realm of the dead Hades said. But he was unable to keep his promise.....

"Kukukuku. So similar stories exist at the west and also at the east."

The owl who mentioned Orpheus's name chuckled fearlessly.

"In any case I can say that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I am also a woman. As one of the women in this world, I shall make the insincere and selfish husband to receive his punishment. With that——"

The next instant, the flying owl transformed into a goddess of ancient Greek.

The girl who had wings of owl growing from her back, Athena. The princess of Zeus threw a golden spear that accurately stabbed Izanagi.

The body of the man trying to push the giant rock to block Yomotsuhirasaka was pierced through like that.

"OOOOOOOOO—!?"

The last word of Izanagi was a groan of anguish.

And then, the eight streaks of lighting that were released from the underground blew away the door sealing large rock. The decayed goddess slowly appeared from the opened entrance.

It was Izanami who was the mother of country founding and now became the goddess of the underworld.

Athena landed in front of her and erased the wings of owl growing from her back.

"Oo, princess god of shining eyes. From your appearances I assume that you are a lady amidst her travel."

First Izanami gave her greeting.

"I shall respectfully express my gratitude for your assistance."

"Don't worry about it. I did it also for my own motive. Don't think of it as a debt."

Athena faced the goddess of foreign country.

The woman's rotten flesh was enveloped in rumbling sparks of lightning.

In addition there were countless maggots crawling on that woman body. It was truly disgusting. But Athena wasn't tricked by the outside appearance and perceived the goddess's true nature.

"I assume that you are the great goddess of the realm of the dead, the queen ruling over the country of the dead spreading at the bottom of earth. May your beautiful virtue and soul be blessed....."

"This one is greatly moved by your soulful words of congratulations."

The goddess of underworld who was covered with lightning and rotten flesh spoke solemnly.

Her festering and rotten body was starting to heal bit by bit. Her skin was returning into a soft and smooth white skin that was like silk.

The garment covering her body was also changing from scrapped rag into the kimono of an imperial queen.

But, the miasma and negative scent enveloping the goddess Izanami were still the same like before.

"O princess coming from the outside country, if it doesn't offend you I wish to present something as a return gift but....."

"Unnecessary. After this, act to your heart's content. That will be beneficial enough for this Athena. It will become an assistance for my aspiration."

"Hohohoho. That is really splendid."

"Please allow me to continue my journey. Good luck in your endeavor."

Athena left behind an encouragement and left.

Goddess Izanami who returned to the surface—to
world between heaven and hell
Ashihara no Nakatsukuni started singing.

"Utsukushiki aganase no mikoto, imashi no kuni no hitokusa, hitohi ni chikashira kubirikorosamu. Utsukushiki aganase no mikoto, imashi no kuni no hitokusa, hitohi ni chikashira kubirikorosamu....."





If that's what my beloved significant other choose, then I shall strangle to death, a thousand of people of your country each day.

The dead goddess recited her words like singing a children's song over and over.

In respond to that, the demons of the realm of the dead surged out one after another.

The Yomotsu Shikome numbering in thousands, tens of thousands. Then Yomotsu Ikusa that numbered thousands, tens of thousands of times than them. They were the corpse demons that served the goddess of death Izanami. (TN: Yomotsu is like the name of the realm of the death, translated literally it means yellow spring)

The demons of the underworld swiftly ran on the surface and strangled to death the living humans they found.

They greedily devoured the soft flesh, slurped the blood, and crunched the bone.

They killed, devoured, and annihilated anything with life whether it was animal or human. They roamed around until the end of the earth to not let even a single one survived.

Miasma filled the surface until every corner. Every plants were withering.

Whether it was mountain, river, or sea, they lost the radiance of life.

The sun was swallowed by darkness, and a great tsunami attacked the parched land.

It was the beginning of the end of the world—.

.

Thus, at the center of “Sanctuary Yomotsuhirasaka” that approached its demise,

"Hohohohoho. Now that this land has obtained ruin like this, there is nothing at all that I ought to accomplish in here."

Around Goddess Izanami, countless sparkles appeared like nebula. That was what the magicians of human world called the space distortion.

The goddess of the realm of the dead leaped into it.

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4

Space distortion—.

Countless light gathered into a hemisphere shape with diameter of ten-odd meter, then they sparkled like a nebula.

It was a gate that could be used to come and go from a mythological world, a door to another world. Right now it appeared on the water surface of Katsura River that was flowing within Kyoto.

The giant stone that was summoned from somewhere by Kumano's crow sect and Azukai what's-his-name—.

It suddenly changed shape into a space distortion. It happened around ten odd minutes after the annihilation of the group of Yokotsu Shikome that appeared in the Institution of Divinities.

And then there was someone who flew into that gate of mythological world.

"How can this be....."

It was Toba Riona who transformed into a blue sparrow.

The sight unfolding below her gaze was the very definition of “ruin”. As far as she could see, seawater was spreading out until every corner of her sight. It was the aftermath of the visit of a great flood.

The sea surface was raging greatly with waves. The water color was muddy brown.

Sometimes there would be “land” that drifted on the sea, floating up and down.

It looked like a small island in a glance. But it wasn’t connected with the bottom of the sea. It was floating in the water without any destination. The raging waves were washing it away. So to speak it was a fragment of a land.

"Is this, a destroyed world....."

Riona soared as a blue sparrow while sighing.

Just from a brief survey, there was nearly a hundred small islands drifting in the raging sea.

There was “sign of human living there until just a while ago” still remaining on those lands.

There were several pit dwelling and paddy field. Wooden structure that looked similar like turret—most likely it was a shrine. Also, there were human corpse, corpse, corpse that seemed to be eaten by savage beast.....

Riona inferred from the people’s garment and architectural style.

"This is even earlier than Nara period.....it’s strikingly similar with the period of Japan when rice cultivation took root.....in other words this is a world of Japanese mythology."

And then it perished.

This sanctuary met its demise.

It would be nothing more than a waste of time to stay longer than this here. Riona forcefully washed away her sympathy and empty feeling with a sigh and flapped her sparrow wings.

She had to quickly return to the surface—back to Japan's Kansai region.

Inside Kyoto City, Arashiyama.....that was where he should be.

However, Rokuhara Ren looked toward the sky,

"It feels like I've entered a mythological world somewhere."

He murmured earnestly.

Today it was sunny from the morning, but thick dark cloud was enshrouding the sky. Furthermore sometimes thunder and—het black lightning would strike down. There lukewarm wind mixed with miasma blew.

The world lose the sunlight and got ravaged by black lightning and rotten wind.

There was little sense of reality even just from that.

"That's why! It seems that space distortions also appeared at Oosaka and Nara!"

"There is also one at Mie and Wakayama too..... But, the greatest problem isn't there."

The members of this secret organization were clamoring at the garden of the garden of the Institution of Divinities.

Toba Fumika—his future sister-in-law approached him while sending concerned glances at that. She held out a smartphone at Ren, but her hand was shaking.

"O, Onii-san, look at this....."

The smartphone's screen was showing a browser that was looking up Kyoto.

Ren grumbled after receiving the report from Fumika.

"Hmmm. Zombie's appearance at Kyoto, zombie is attacking, human getting eaten..... So the Japanese zombies just now are also coming out at other places."

"Oh? Is this what they call a video?"

Cassandra's finger reached at the smartphone Fumika was holding.

The video started playing. It was inside Kyoto. There was the monster of Japanese mythology Yokotsu Shikome that he faced just now at a main street with many tourists. There was only one of it.

Just that one zombie—was clinging on a passerby.

It continuously gnawed at the person's face, throat, shoulder, tearing off the flesh, and then chewing it.

"Uuuh. How horrific....."

Fumika covered her mouth after witnessing the very ghastly video.

Tears were forming on her eyes. Her expression was mixed with terror and anger. On the other hand, Cassandra who was a princess of a powerful country Troia and had experienced the battlefield spoke gallantly.

"Ren-sama. Where are the soldiers protecting this country? Although presumptuous, I wish to render them my assistance too."

"I wonder. I got the feeling that this is too much for the SDF."

Ren pondered.

"It's the Institution of Divinities that has to protect the citizens from this kind of monster—I guess that it's the people here who are in charge of

that."

"It's exactly as you say, Ren-san."

The old princess shrine maiden, Hinako-sama was at their side when they noticed.

Slightly behind here there was also the "supervisor" Seishuuin Maki. Both her who had the role to supervise Ren's fiancée and Hinako-sama were looking terribly serious.

"Rokuhara-kun. This situation is already beyond the capability of even us Institution of Divinities....."

"Yes. Actually just now there was a report from Osaka. In that place there aren't only Yomotsu Shikome and Yomotsu Ikusa.....a queen who is controlling the swarm of the dead also appeared."

Maki and Hinako-sama said. Ren tilted his head.

"Queen? What kind of person she is?"

"She isn't human."

Hinako-sama whispered—and smiled.

Of course it wasn't because she was having fun. It was the empty smile that people made when they were facing a trial that far surpassed their own capability and couldn't do anything at the end.

"Izanami no Mikoto. The mother of country founding who created the land of Japan. In other words a god."

"Yes. A goddess who should be existing only in the domain of myth—manifested at our world Japan and was left idle. I think that perhaps, this goddess is the one leading the zombies of the realm of the dead to here."

Chapter 4 – Walking Dead

Kyoto-Osaka

In Keihan Route

1

The golden Yatagarasu was flying with the consciousness of Toba Riona placed in it.

She departed from Kyoto's Arashiyama and headed toward the southwest. She was already within Osaka prefecture. Coincidentally she could see Yodo River flowing below her while she was flying.

The Katsura River that was seen at Arashiyama, it was actually joining with Yodo River if one followed the stream for a while.

Tokaido Shinkansen was running side by side with Yodo River at this area. Just like how there was a water transportation at Yodo River in the past, this was a vein that was in charge of the transportation between Kyoto and Osaka.

However right now corpses were squirming at that Kyoto-Osaka route.

"Sure enough they're coming out everywhere....."

Riona was overlooking the inside of the prefecture from the sky as Yatagarasu.

Places like Nagaoka-kyo City, Yawata City, Neyaga City, and so on that she had passed through until now. Each time she passed between three or four cities, she would surely find one of it. A space distortion.

A singularity where countless lights converged like a nebula. A gate to mythological world.

"There are three space distortions already confirmed just in the route from Kyoto to Osaka..... How many there'll be in total throughout the whole Kansai area....."

Riona muttered as the will of the soaring Yatagarasu.

All the gates were connected with the destroyed Sanctuary Yomotsuhirasaka.

Also there would surely be the Japanese zombies Yomotsu Ikusa appearing near the space distortions.

At the very least there would be ten-odd zombies. When there was a lot the number would be nearly a hundred. Furthermore around ten percent of them would be Yomotsu Shikome. The female monster was as big as two ordinary people and fast like lightning—.

The police force and JSDF that were dispatched in emergency were fighting hard for the “zombie extermination”.

They hid behind riot police's shield or vehicle while desperately firing with the firearms they were carrying. They were shooting like there was no tomorrow.

Although, these were the two organizations that were taking pains to 『economize bullet=tax』 at their usual training. There was no way they could deal with this kind of mission well.

Furthermore, the corpses of hell didn't really stop moving even when they were hit by bullet.

They wouldn't be defeated if a vital spot like head or heart wasn't struck with a shot. The Japanese zombies were continuing to advance even while under fire—

They clung at the brave civil servants! And sunk their teeth!

Gnaw-gnaw-. Gnaw-gnaw-.

The corpses of police officer and JSDF personnel were increasing one after another.

But, a part of Japan Ground Self-Defense Force was putting up a really good fight. They were scattering lead bullets with automatic rifle, or using tank to exterminate the zombies other its thread.

However, that fortune was limited to area that was close to JSDF base or garrison.

That was why Riona was flying as Yatagarasu while——

"Purify, exorcist. O secret word of fire, fill the heaven and earth."

A great amount of fire dusts were scattered from the spread open wings.

If the zombies got showered by the dusts, they would burn all over their body and perished without fail at the end.

Furthermore, the fire dusts were like yellow sand or microscopic dust. They would reach until dozens of kilometers around the route that Yatagarasu passed and purified the enemies all at once.

Yatagarasu repeated the annihilation of the dead with her feat of strength before she finally arrived.

Osaka Castle Park——.

Vast forest and open space, the outer moat and inner moat and museum, and then the keep.

The site of a famous castle that was once the center of the whole country. Her destination was the symbol of Osaka Castle, the keep. Riona yelled inside Yatagarasu.

"The place with the thickest miasma in Kansai right now is——here!"

Similar with Arashiyama, the trees of Osaka Castle Park were completely withered.

The land was also horribly dried. The water in the moat was muddy, looking like it was starting to rot. Countless dead fishes were floating on the water surface.

There were even humans collapsing everywhere. The number reached hundreds, perhaps even thousands.....

And then Riona witnessed it through Yatagarasu's eyes.

"That's Izanami no Mikoto.....!"

A beauty was standing alone on the keep's roof.

Black hair and black eyes, a slender face that looked unhappy. Her limbs were slender with slim waist of a willow tree. She was terribly dainty, but on the contrary she also looked like terribly coquettish because of that—.

She was wearing blue round-necked robe worn by members of nobility and the imperial court called hou with tight sleeves, along with black ancient skirt called mo.

In short she was wearing dress of ancient Japan with pleated skirt. Although it was particularly simple, it had beauty that was worthy for a goddess. It was an outfit that was similar with Asuka period (550-710 CE).

And then, her whole body——was sparking with electricity that was continuously letting out black sparks.

"In the myth she should look ugly and decomposed though. Has she recovered her beauty when she was alive?"

"Oo. Radiant messenger of sun....."

The goddess at the keep smiled gracefully.

"How sublime. But, that light and hope is not what I desire. Well now, let Izanami bequeath you with a well wish."

Izanami stared at Yatagarasu that came soaring from the northeast and chanted.

"If that's what my beloved significant other choose, then I shall strangle to death, a thousand of people of your country each day....."

It was a curse, the words of power of impurity.

It entered into the sacred bird through her sense of hearing. The vitality, life, the holy spirit of fire and sun that were brimming inside the golden body——were consumed in the blink of eye.

Yatagarasu lost all of her golden radiance and fell toward the ground as a grey corpse.

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"Enemy reconnaissance, finished. Well, I was splendidly defeated."

Riona who had her eyes closed all this time opened her eyes.

‘Fuu.’ She let out a deep sigh. She wasn’t at Osaka Castle, but at the garden of the Institution of Divinities at Kyoto – Arashiyama. Around her the people of this organization regardless of the management or underling were in flurried activity.

"I made one of my shikigami the twelve divine generals into substitute to try clashing with the enemy's supreme commander but——it was an instant kill."

"No worry, that's just as expected."

Julio who was standing beside her responded calmly.

"Although it was an underling of Yatagarasu, it's not any threat at all against a genuine god. It's a difference of strength that is just as we assumed. That's not something to fret over, Riona."

"Yes. During that time I sent the other eleven divine generals throughout Kansai."

Riona nodded, then she turned her gaze toward her cousin who was also her superior.

"Maki-san. I think the “pseudo-Yatagarasu” I sent to places other than Osaka did their work well but how is the situation?"

"Ye, yeah."

The supervisor from Institution of Divinities, Seishuun Maki spoke in bewilderment.

She contacted various areas of Kansai using her smartphone and checked the battle situation.

"Space distortions appeared in the area of Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Nara in total of—twenty four. Around them there are massive outbreak of creepy zombies. The damages caused are great. But the “pseudo-Yatagarasu” that Riona sent took care of them. They rained down words of power of fire and purified around eighty percent of the zombies."

Yes, there were twelve servants of Toba Riona.

That was why they were called the twelve divine generals. The eyes of the great onmyouji—of her who changed all of them into Yatagarasu’s clones were currently shining blue like sapphire.

It was a display of power that was possible because her ability as sacred bird was fully liberated.

However, the heroine who accomplished the great feat spoke in vexation.

"So, twenty percent got away."

"It can’t be helped. There’ll be some who get away no matter what if you’re bombing from the sky. Anyway we will make the local polices and JSDF cooperate with our agents to form barrier and defense line around the

space distortions. The evacuation guidance to the nearby citizens is also starting. We're managing to carry out the countermeasures somehow right now."

"What about those zombies?"

"It seems the survivors are wandering in various areas. We're asking everyone to diligently patrol the area thoroughly, and if the zombies are found they're to be exterminated immediately—that's what we're doing right now."

The space distortions were starting to appear simultaneously around three hours ago.

This much had been done in that short time. The strength of Rokuhara Ren's fiancée, Toba Riona was taking many responsibilities. As expected from her.

And then, seeing that it was the right time.

Ren suddenly interrupted.

"Hey, Riona. Can I ask you one fundamental matter?"

"What is it, goshujin-sama?"

"In the first place, what kind of god Izanami is?"

"Aa..... Thinking again, that's a knowledge that normal person won't really know."

"Riona-sama. Please teach me too about it!"

"Very well. Once upon a time, when the heaven and earth of Japan was still very young"

Cassandra also raised her hand to ask. Riona then began explaining.

"At that time, the land of Japan didn't have a definite shape. It was in a muddy state like oil that was floating in the water, drifting in the sea like a jellyfish. There the gods of heaven commanded Izanagi and Izanami. Harden the mud there and create a country, they said."

Riona was narrating the myth like a folk tale.

"Izanagi and Izanami that became husband and wife created Awaji Island at the beginning, then Shikoku, Kyushu, Honshu, and other islands of various sizes, forming the domain of Japan. Next after the lands they also diligently increased the number of gods by creating children. That's why these husband and wife are the gods of country founding."

"And, Izanami-san was the mother?"

"The name of the husband and the wife sounds similar isn't it?"

Ren and Cassandra commented. Riona easily answered them.

"Because they were biological brother and sister after all."

"Eeh!? Ah, but, now that Riona-sama mentioned it, similar story of gods were also handed down at our Troia!"

"Well, the episode of gods marrying their brothers or sisters can be found everywhere after all."

Japan's onmyouji added her explanation to the surprised princess of Greek mythology.

"By the way these husband and wife gave birth to a crippled child called Hiruko at the beginning. This is an episode that "often appeared" in consanguineous marriage myth all over the world. It might be the ethnical recollection of mankind, a warning to the future that there is such risk if you marry someone with blood relation that's too close with you."

"Hee!"

"However, in the myth of Izanagi and Izanami, there was an additional reason that said 『It's the punishment because the woman took initiative in child making』 . It was said that such passage was added because of the influence of the ideal 『a wife should do her husband's bidding』 from China that was introduced at the course of the formation of Japanese mythology though....."

"At the modern time, that's a flow that will surely get recognized as sexual harassment huh."

The impression from Julio really sounded like a line that someone from an intelligent faction would say.

On the other hand—seeing the members of Campiones association talking carefreely, the people of Japan's Institution of Divinities were staring at them with a face that said 『Unbelievable.....』 .

The two females who were nearest to them called out.

"Sa, say, Onii-san. Can I ask a question?"

"You're acting really calm aren't you, Ren-san....."

"Tha.....that's right you know!? The frightening goddess of Japanese myth, she came out to the surface world like a godzilla you know!?"

It was Riona's little sister Fumika and the princess shrine maiden Hinako-sama.

Ren answered the questions with a light tone.

"It's not a big deal. I'm used to this kind of thing after all."

"Even though you'll fight a god!?"

Fumika vigorously retorted. Ren nodded with a smile.

Then agitation spread at the surrounding—through the people of the headquarter of Institution of Divinities. Even the old men who until now

only considered Rokuhara Ren as 『a person of doubtful origin from somewhere』 .

Should this man's words be trusted or not?

How far they could believe in the power that Toba Riona and this man displayed?

They were obviously shaken. It seemed it would be the phase for the finishing touch soon. Rokuhara Ren who possessed a unique sense of smell regarding getting along with other people grinned and—

"Then, we should be going soon."

He told Hinako-sama.

.

2

"Go, going you say, to where!?"

"Of course, to do something about that goddess called Izanami."

Ren frankly declared at the flustered old lady.

Julio slightly frowned beside him. It was the obvious declaration of intent as the commander-in-chief of the Campiones association. However, Ren winked at the young man who was his confidant and also friend and faced Hinako-sama once more.

"Right now, among all the people in Japan, I'm the only one who can do this after all. It's a great discount service from me, as thanks for the tea and sweets."

"Is.....is that alright, Ren-san?"

"Of course. I and Hinako-sama are friend after all."

Ren spoke familiarly despite having only met her yesterday.

"Julio over there must be wanting to say things like 『Don't sell your strength for cheap』 or 『Make a demand for compensation』 , but in deference to my friendship with Hinako-sama, I'll ask him to shut his eyes for this. It's alright."

"Ren. I don't have any intention to shut my eyes though?"

"Don't worry about it. I'm not good with bargaining. It's troublesome. More importantly this is Japan, and everyone here is people who put importance to Japan's tradition so of course——"

Julio showed his dissatisfaction. But Ren gave him a thumb up.

"I believe that they will 『surmise』 it without being told. That way should be absolutely be easier."

"Hou, surmise is it?"

"If it's Julio then you must know about it right?"

"Naturally. You mean the system where the people below need to have tacit understanding about their superior, considerately dancing to the tune of their superior, where everything is managed for the convenience of their superior. When this system that's peculiar to Japan start functioning, they said that any instruction using word or document will be completely unneeded——"

"Yep, that's the one♪"

"However, will the old people here go that far? Danger past and god forgotten, there're a lot of people in this world who are like that you know? You Rokuhara Ren is the epitome of that though."

"Isn't it alright? The people here seem to have better memory than me after all."

Ren approached a nearby old man.

He was one of the directors of the Institution of Divinities. From his bearing and atmosphere, he must be highly positioned even within the organization—actually Ren had secretly marked him as someone like that.

Ren peered into the face of that old man with a smile.

He was cheerful and openhearted till the end from very close proximity where their noses almost touched each other.

"How about it, mister? Will you surmise and give some consideration about our situation?"

"Tha, that's....."

"Rokuhara-san. It's alright even if you don't go that far to obtain a commitment."

Riona grinned with the face of an evil queen.

"Kansai region is the special ring of Rokuhara Ren VS Goddess Izanami anyway. When the match is over, the surmise system will naturally start to function. They're able to spectate the battle of Rokuhara-san with the goddess from the front row seats after all."

"Is that how it is?"

"Yes. This person is the godslaying devil king, and his name is Rokuhara Ren—. After the battle is over no one will be able to forget that fact. As long as Rokuhara-san don't die in battle that is."

"I see. Then, I've got to do my best to return alive."

"Double KO is also not permitted. I don't want to be a widow before the marriage."

"Roger."

"Ren-sama-. I will of course give my assistance too!"

Cassandra too was valiant as usual.

Thus, the Campiones association prepared to “challenge god”.

While it was an extremely serious situation, they were acting light and easy till the end without any grim atmosphere. In contrast, all the people of Institution of Divinities who were watching everything had gloom expression.

Especially the old men who regularly acted “like a big-shot” more than necessary.

They began to notice that were directly faced with something that surpassed their understanding and tolerance. They were still unable to swallow of how they should deal with it.

But on the other hand, Hinako-sama alone was lifting her face with determination—

And smiled at Ren sweetly and gently.

"I understand. I will pray for Ren-san's victory."

"Thank you Hinako-sama."

"Ren-san is the son of my second cousin after all."

"Hahaha. You're still keeping that setting?"

"If even “that kind of thing” is alright with you then.....I will consolidate the Institution of Divinities with my command and—offer it up to you."

"Hee! Then let's go with that, Hinako-neesan."

The old lady with mild and gentle personality. However right now she made a suggestion with a mischievous face. Ren immediately accepted that suggestion.

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"O, Onee-chan, I'm also going!?"

"Naturally. Fumika is also a member of Toba main house after all, so resolve yourself."

"Fu, fueeeeh"

"When the battle is over, I'll take you to Nihonbashi and Ikebukuro. Of course Onee-sama'll also cover for the shopping expense."

"Leave it to me, Onee-chan. A great power carries a great responsibility isn't it!"

Instantly, although she looked like she would burst into tears, Fumika immediately recovered her footing.

It was the conversation that the Toba sisters exchanged just before they departed from Institution of Divinities at Arashiyama. Julio was listening from the side with a curious look. Riona explained to him.

"The opponent is the goddess of death who came from the realm of the dead after all. As the reincarnation of Tamayori Hime, Fumika has the special ability as spirit medium, so she might be useful. I think it'll be better to bring her."

"Understood. I'll believe your judgment."

The commander-in-chief of Campiones nodded and changed the topic.

"How about the transport? Should we call for a helicopter of JSDF?"

"I think that the air route won't be good. When I approached from the air, Izanami detected me from quite far away. Let's go with a car."

"It's better to use strong vehicle that is as solid as possible and can even go through bad road. Do you have any idea?"

Riona and Julio exchanged opinion.

But, in the parking lot of the Institution of Divinities there were only domestic high class cars for the directors. They couldn't find four-wheeled vehicle that fulfilled their conditions.

"Well, it can't be helped. Let's search around this area."

Riona came to a clean decision. Behind her, Julio spoke in doubt.

"That seems to be an American car. There's a pickup truck in this kind of place?"

"There's no way there'll be that kind of imported goods in the Institution of Divinities. It's a farmer's Porsche aka minitruck that is familiar at Japan's countryside. This thing can run really well, and it can also be loaded with a lot of baggage. There're even fanciful people who would use for rally."

"Hou, Porsche huh."

"I commandeered it from the gardeners that fiddled with the garden here. It's emergency situation after all!"

Riona who was raised while looking up at Ikoma Mountain was actually familiar with this kind of car.

It was a white minitruck that was often seen at the street. They emptied the cargo bed and loaded the weapons from the Institution of Divinities on there. Handgun, automatic rifle, etc—. Riona also used them at the previous incident in Kobe.

They brought them in preparation for emergency.

"Will Rokuhara-san and others also use something? There're also a lot of Japanese katanas with miraculous effect against zombie just like what's popular at foreign drama here!"

"I'm fine. I'll make do with my own strength."

"Me too. For weapon I have my own."

"Say. Onee-chan, Making your little sister who is still a middle school student to bring handgun is a bit....."

"You shut up. We're departing right away—wait, what about Princess Cassandra?"

Come to think of it, the Troia princess had been staying quiet all this time during the sortie preparation.

She didn't particularly express any opinion and secretly erased her presence. And then, when they noticed the silver haired beautiful princess was already sitting on the minitruck's driver seat with brimming motivation.

"Everyone. Please leave the driving of this chariot to me!"

Cassandra grasped the handle with blazing fighting spirit.

Riona spoke out her opinion even in her bewilderment.

"But, if it's driving then we also have Julio, even my shikigami also can do it."

"If it's about my skill then please don't worry. Since I came to this world—I has secretly learned 『driving』 using this divine object!"

What Cassandra took out was a green feather.

Riona and Ren were familiar with it. It was the divine object Hermes's Feather. It could teleport the owner to any world they liked once a month.

"Actually, Hermes-sama's feather also has the effect to teach the holder about the situation and knowledge of the travel destination. Using that at every opportunity——"

"You used it to teach you the way to drive a car?"

"Yes♪"

"Nice. If you're saying that much then we'll leave it to you."

Seeing Cassandra having fun, Ren gave his agreement.

"According to Maki-san, civilian vehicles are forbidden from passing right now. In that case, it might be alright!"

"I will answer your expectation, Ren-sama!"

Cassandra was on the driver's seat, while Fumika was beside her.

Ren, Julio, and Riona were on the cargo bed. With that lineup the group finally departed from Arashiyama.

And then unexpectedly, or perhaps as expected, Princess Cassandra at her first ten minutes driving caused everyone to be anxious by making the engine stalled and crashing the car lightly on a wall.

But the princess's driving was rapidly getting smoother in a short time—

"Our destination is Osaka Castle isn't it!"

Practiced wheel handling. Switching the gear manually.

Cassandra splendidly controlled the car frame and rushed through the road or even place with no road. She made the minitruck dashed adeptly while laughing.

"Fufufufu. This reminds me when I borrowed a chariot from Hector-niisama in the past!"

"As expected from Troia's royalty.....this must be the bloodline of a clan of hero."

"She has a grounding that make her well versed in every kind of martial arts after all. To drive around chariot of mythological world and car of present day earth with the same intuition is amazing....."

"Nice, Cassandra! Hit the pedal with this spirit!"

"Yes!"

"Bu, but, I think it's better to not go through rice field's ridge!"

Riona nodded in understanding, while Julio was impressed.

Ren spurred her on which Cassandra replied back with cheerfulness. It was only Fumika who was relatively "normal" among these members who was flustered.

For the time being it seemed there was announcement of 『Refrain from using car』 throughout Kansai to the citizens.

Certainly they sometimes heard the announcer speaking "To all the citizens~" from the speakers that were set up by the local government.

But, there were also a lot of civilians who didn't obey it.

Many tried to evacuate far away using cars, causing congestion to happen frequently.

In order to avoid that, Cassandra controlled the minitruck like her own limbs and drove through road that couldn't be called road. Berm, farm road, dry riverbed, park, sports ground, etc, etc.....

Sometimes she would crash through glass or automatic door.

She even cut across spacious supermarket, electronic store, or shopping mall.

That wild route selection was based on the guidance of the white heron shikigami that Riona summoned.

It was flying in front of the minitruck, using its body to show the direction that should be taken by the Troia princess who had no way of knowing the route of Kansai. Cassandra too followed the instruction well.

And then, when several Yomotsu Ikusa were standing on their path—

"Fueh!? Zo, zombies finally came out!?"

"Please leave it to me!"

Fumika flinched back. In contrast Cassandra stepped on the gas pedal hard.

Hit. Hit. The zombies were stirringly hit flying by the bonnet of the sprinting minitruck or getting trampled by the tires.

The minitruck was changed into a mobile brutal weapon and mowed down the Japanese zombies that should be tenacious altogether.

"Run over the soldiers standing in front of the chariot without mercy! That is the custom of battlefield. That's what my dead elder brother told me. I'm truly very sorry!"(TN: The way Cassandra speak in the raw, she often use very, very polite way of speaking at the end)

Cassandra politely apologized while running over the Japanese zombies.

Her eyes and expression were dignified through all that. They were shining with the pride of Troia royalty.

Even so, there were times when zombies gathered in front of the minitruck in number that couldn't be just ran over, trying to obstruct the minitruck's path. When that happened, Riona would fire without delay.

"Fly, shikigamis!"

She pulled the trigger of type 89 rifle along with words of power.

The automatic rifle that was used as the standard equipment in JGSDF was pointed at inaccurate direction.

Even so, the scattered bullets were flying in an arc and splendidly pierced and bored through the head and torso of the zombies blocking the minitruck's path.

All the bullets were inserted with formula and turned into Riona's servants.

The zombies were routed. Ren laughed lightly.

"Hahah. This is easier than I thought!"

"I wonder about that. It seems there is also one that is a bit tougher there, Ren!"

Julio warned.

It was the 『average zombies』 Yomotsu Ikusa that got easily mowed down by the scattered bullets. However, there was a monster that was twice as big than them with even more ferocity and agility—.

Yomotsu Shikome. The female monster that could cross 1000 ri with a single leap.

SHaaaAAAAAAAH—!

The Yomotsu Shikome spewed out its fighting spirit through its lips and leaped.

She was aiming at the cargo bed of the minitruck. However, Julio swiftly moved without being bothered by the fierce shaking by the vehicle that was in the middle of running.

"It's time for battle Cuore di Leone!"

Suddenly a sword appeared at the right hand of the commander-in-chief of Campiones association.

It was a broadsword. The blade contained a cool and clear silver radiance. The tip of the magic sword splendidly thrust into the forehead of the Yomotsu Shikome—





The female monster instantly turned into ash and vanished!

"It's the magic sword that has been handed down for generation to the head of Blandelli Family. It will be troubling if it's looked down at."

Julio grinned and chuckled.

Lion's soul. It seemed that was the meaning of the name Cuore di Leone.

Like this, the minitruck rushed to the southwest—toward the direction of Osaka Castle. The godslayer Rokuhara Ren had no turn at all.

The other members were fighting hard that there was no need for him to stand out.

Although, it was only natural. After all the likes of Yomotsu Ikusa and Yomotsu Shikome were small fries. They weren't in the level that was worthy against the devil king, a godslayer.

However, there was one worry.

"It's not like usual when I've gone through a travel in a mythological world, so my stock of retribution isn't much right now....."

But, that worry too was like "asking for the moon".

Ren shrugged and prepared for the battle against the powerful enemy, Goddess Izanami.

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3

The evening of autumn would arrive soon. The sky was dyed madder red.

Ren arrived at Osaka Castle around that time.

From here on only a godslayer could climb up on the ring. Ren crossed the outer moat alone, passed in front of Hokoku Shrine, and approached the inner citadel and the keep.

He caught sight of several human corpses on his way there.

Their limbs and body parts with soft meat were torn apart—that kind of corpse wasn't rare. They must be attacked by Yomotsu Ikusa and Yomotsu Shikome.

Of course, he couldn't say that he didn't feel anything welling up.

But, right now wasn't the time to let the feeling erupted. Rokuhara Ren was an existence who should be light-hearted and nimble not only in his everyday life, but also as a warrior.

Because if he wasn't like that, this man would be unable to display his greatest power.....

"Dancing like a butterfly, and sting like a bee, was it again?"

When he was a child, he was told that when he was imitating punching motion at a gym.

Rampaging with his emotion driving him wasn't Ren's style. Whether it was at the present, at the past, or at the future. That was why he continued his walk lightly and finally arrived until in front of the keep.

Its height was 55 meter. Actually it had been reconstructed after Japan entered the Showa Era (1926-1989).

"Hou, how mysterious."

A beautiful woman was standing with the keep of Osaka Castle behind her.

She was wearing a garment from an era that was even more ancient than kimono. She stared at Ren with a dubious look.

"Bathed in the fragrance of the underworld that I scattered, the people of the surface should be unable to even stand. And yet, you calmly visited until before the presence of Izanami....."

"I'm Rokuhara Ren. If I have to confess, I'm not an ordinary person."

"That seems to be the case. However, you also aren't a god. In the end you're a child of man. In that case there's only one answer. You're our sworn enemy, a godslaying beast isn't it?"

"Correct. It helps that you catch on quick."

Izanami elegantly smiled at Ren's reaction.

"Hohohoho. Do you intend to defeat me who is an eyesore for you?"

"That's also correct."

"Very well. As one of the heavenly gods, I will turn the table on the beast!"

"Hahahaha. Things are going so swimmingly that it's scary instead. This is simpler and easier than the time I went to stop the destruction of a mythological world."

Goddess Izanami emitted black lightning sparks from her whole body. Rokuhara Ren smiled fearlessly.

God and godslayer. It could be said that they were easily settling into their proper relationship. If the usual sanctuary trip was an RPG, then this would be a fighting game.

And then, the battle was instantly started!

"Ooikazuchi, Honoikazuchi!"

"Whoops!"

Two streaks of thunderbolt fell from the cloudy sky. Ren easily dodged that.

"Kuroikazuchi, Sakuikazuchi!"

"A misdeed should be accompanied with divine punishment. Sinners, tremble before the avatar of justice——"

Even when the next two shots came down, Ren easily slipped through between the thunderbolts.

Of course, that was possible only because of Goddess Nemesis's swiftness. Ren chanted the words of power of justice and retribution while staring at the queen of the realm of the dead.

Izanami coldly gazed with an expression as though she was staring at filth.

"Wakaikazuchi, Tsuchiikazuchi, Naruikazuchi, Fushiikazuchi——my children, the eight lightning gods!"

Black thunderbolts were falling without pause.

Ren jumped to the front, back, left, right with intense rhythmic like Flamenco while dodging those. During it Ren quickly obtained a certain confidence. What he obtained after going through numerous travels and deathly battles, crossing blows with the fierce warriors of sanctuaries——an animalistic instinct. He could do this.

He moved in an ellipse track using his godspeed steps and circled around in an instant.

To right behind the goddess who continued bringing down lightning. With a timing of taking her defenseless back.

"I get it."

"!?"

"Onnee-san is the mother of this country. You aren't really used to fighting. You also don't have any significant weapon. My bad but, you can't compete with me like that."

Ren whispered from behind her while liberating his "stock" at the same time.

"Divine retribution! I wish for the judgment of justice right here!"

"A—AAAAAaaaaaaaah!?"

The goddess of country founding Izanami shrieked.

It was because she was hit by a counter from the back by Ren's authority, Retributive Justice.

The thunderbolts that the goddess was unleashing randomly until now—Ooikazuchi, Honoikazuchi, Kuroikazuchi, Sakuikazuchi, Wakaikazuchi, Tsuchiikazuchi, Naruikazuchi, Fushiikazuchi, the eight lightning gods. The weapon that Ren obtained from Midgard was also added there.

The lightning that Marquis Voban rained down on him like there was no tomorrow.

The godslaying wolf unleashed an authority that came from some kind of storm god. It was the lightning attack from the worst devil king.

To speak bluntly, the level of the attack was different from the attack of someone like Izanami. Might, number, density, intensity, the goddess's lightning was inferior in every aspect.

That was why, it was only natural for the mother goddess to yield and fall against this dense lightning attack of maximum power.

"aaaaaaa....."

"As I thought the stock was a bit insufficient. If the counter was filled with one or two more pushes, this should be over already....."

The goddess's white beautiful face and garment were dirtied with black soot. Smoke was rising from her smoldering body.

With the inflicted damage, it shouldn't be strange even if her whole body was burned into an ugly corpse.

But, the mother Izanami was still gorgeous like before. This miracle must be because of the goddess's authority. Ren casually looked down on her.

Well, even if he stocked more of Izanami's black lightning, the result would still be the same.

Rather killing her momentum at the start, making her fell, and then dealing the finishing blow in one go would be more efficient—

"I'll leave the rest to you, Riona."

[Leave it to me, goshujin-sama!]

While calling Ren as her master with her usual sarcastic tone,

Riona who transformed into Yatagarasu flew to above the keep.

[Sacred flame pure and clear—]

What the beak of the sacred bird recited was the words of power of the sun.

Twelve “fire spheres” appeared around her. They surrounded the golden Yatagarasu while circling around her. They were the twelve divine generals, the shikigamis serving Riona.

The spirits of fire and sun started emitting silver light from the sky.

[This lowly self wish to reverently state in the presence of Sume-Mikami.....heavenly god of illuminating sun, manifest thyself here!]

Brilliant and warm pure radiance was scattered to the ground.

Not only to the Osaka Castle, the light was emitted until every corner of Kansai. Yatagarasu and the underlings were already no different from a small sun.

Showered under that brilliant light, the one writhing around was——

"O, OOOOOOH!? Stop, refrain from scattering that annoying light, cease at once, o spirits! This is the command from this great goddess of the underworld you know!?"

[This is because a goddess of underworld——someone who should be at the bottom of the earth came out to the surface!]

"Kuuuuuh!"

Izanami groaned hearing what Riona=Yatagarasu said from the sky.

The mother goddess was still lying on the ground. She looked like she didn't have any spare strength to even stand. The spiritual ki of the sun that was the source of life was amplified and expanded, raining down to the ground. It became an exceptionally crushing blow toward the goddess of death, a negative existence.

This was the finishing technique that was decided by Riona and Julio, the two intellectuals. It was effective as expected.

Around this time, with Osaka Castle as the center, the corrupted land inside of Osaka City was wholly purified. Even the Japanese zombies that got away previously should be exterminated——

It was a result that was just like Riona predicted.

It was looking good. The belief that the enemy had been checked welled up and Ren smiled fearlessly.

It was a warrior's face that would only grant uncomfortable feeling to those people who only knew about Rokuhara Ren's usual happy-go-lucky side——

It was then.

The sky was torn and blazing flame flew with radiating range. Furthermore there were eight of them.

It was fired from the north of Osaka Castle, from the direction of Neyagawa Bridge that crossed Okawa River.

Eight necks were raised from inside the wide Okawa River.....the blazes were spewed by the monster. It seemed that it was lurking underwater until now.

Eight streaks of exploding blazes were spewed out from the eight mouths of the monster with eight necks.

The railway bridge of Keihan's main line and Neyagawa Bridge were struck eight times by the radiating blazes and melted like candy.

And then the eight streaks of blazes attacked Yatagarasu and her servants!

"Watch out Riona!"

[Disperse!]

Ren warned. Riona ordered.

Yatagarasu and the shikigamis twelve divine generals spread out in the air and dodged the eight blazes in a hair's breadth. And then they flew toward Okawa River where the attacker was located.

The monster that raised its head from underwater was a giant snake with eight necks.

It also had eight tails. However, there was only one body where the eight heads and the eight tails were connected to. The total length from its head until the tip of its tail was around 40, 50 meter.

Eight headed large snake—its single stomach was red like fresh blood.

".....Eh?"

Ren tilted his head while staring at the eight headed and eight tailed monster snake from Osaka Castle.

"I've heard about that kind of monster from somewhere I think?"

"It seems that it's called Yamato no Orochi in this Japan."

A dignified voice of a girl told him

Ren put up his guard. The person made her entrance like a night wind blowing through the darkness of night.

Beside Izanami who collapsed and writhed on the ground—an old acquaintance goddess was standing.

Silver hair that was like the moon's radiance and eyes of darkness color. She was wearing a white garment of ancient Greece. Her hand was holding a staff that was decorated with decoration of snake baring its fangs at the tip.

"I too have a little bit of acquaintance with snake gods. I'm also aware of the knowledge to wake them up. Wondering if it can be of assistance with the beautiful Izanami, I attempted to call out to Japan's snake god."

The goddess of wisdom and war, the rival of his partner
Stella=Aphrodite.

Ren asked his archenemy at the Trojan War.

"Athena-san huh. For us to meet at this kind of place.....a coincidence?"

"No, it's an inevitability."

Athena grinned and crouched down.

She helped the collapsed goddess of underworld to stand and then talked with a gentle voice.

"You fought well, Izanami-dono. But, it's impossible for that willowy body to struggle through rough battle. Because I'm in the middle of a journey, I'm unable to give assistance personally but—I tried inviting that one. What do you think?"

"Tha, that's enough, princess god of shining eyes."

Izanami spoke with a voice that was trembling from deep emotion.

"I don't know how to express my thanks for your kindness!"

"No need, no need. Now let's go. It will be for the better if you rest your body behind that great snake. As for the cursed godslayer, I shall draw him away for a while."

"Oo, my heartfelt thanks to you!"

Izanami accepted Athena's recommendation and suddenly transformed.

From a willowy beauty to a swan—. She flew away and flapped her wings toward Yamato no Orochi that appeared at Okawa River.

But, Ren had no leeway to intercept her.

Because Goddess Athena faced his way and held him back with her jet black eyes.

"As expected, are you holding a grudge from what happened at Troia?"

"There's also that but, that's not all. Anyway, I'm happy to be able to meet you after so long, Rokuhara Ren."

It was the chance meeting of the nth time between the terrifying daughter of Zeus and godslayer.

.

"Yamata no Orochi. Another absurd thing came out....."

Riona who transformed into the sacred bird Yatagarasu at the sky muttered in terror.

A large snake with eight necks appeared from underwater of Okawa that wasn't even a kilometer from Osaka Castle's keep and reared up its heads.

The sixteen eyes of the snake were all red and blazed in the color of ground cherry.

"Those eyes are like red ground cherry, possessing eight heads and eight tails with one body. Its stomach is inflamed with blood. Its appearance is just like in legend!"

Riona=Yatagarasu was burning with flame spirit.

An existence that received the holy number eight that was rivaling other number like three, seven, or nine in the world of myth and legend. But especially in the land of the gods Japan, number eight was the most important holy number—.

It could be said that their status was equal with each other.

This monster didn't lack anything as an opponent. Compressed air and strange warning sound were gushing out from the nostrils of Yamato no Orochi's eight heads.

Shuuu, shuuu, shuuu, shuuu, shuuu, shuuuu—!

The eight mouths were unleashing fire breaths once more. Of course the fire was aimed toward Yatagarasu and the flame spirits taking position above the keep!

"O spirits of fire, answer my divine ki!"

Riona chanted the words of power of fire.

If she heightened her power and authority as divine spirit of sun—

"It's not an easy task to defeat us using flame just so you know!"

This time she didn't evade the eight blazes that Yamato no Orochi unleashed.

Riona and her servants the twelve divine generals purposefully stayed in place and received direct hit. They took on the enemy's firepower as it was and used it in return.

"Secret words of fire and sun, purify and exorcise!"

They combined their own flame with the enemy's blaze and sent it back!

Yatagarasu's flame that was burning bluish white attacked to Yamato no Orochi this time. However, the monster snake who possessed red cherry eyes also didn't dodge that.

Yamato no Orochi didn't even twitch and basked in the direct hit.

Those eight heads, eight tails, and one body—were clad in fire and burned with white scorch.

It was like steel that was thrown into a smelting furnace. However, even with its whole body scorching white, it firmly maintained its shape as Yamato no Orochi.

JUuuuuuuuuuuuu-!

Yamato no Orochi was burned by Riona's flame. The water of Okawa River where that giant body was submerged in was rapidly evaporating. Water vapor was rising up densely. The temperature was increasing to a dreadful degree.

Yatagarasu and Yamato no Orochi, both of them possessed deep relation with fire.

That was exactly why this supernatural phenomenon, a competition of scorching heat was taking place.

"So flame won't become any decisive blow for both sides then!"

SHUaaaaAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!

Yatagarasu=Riona and Yamato no Orochi, the two of them were worked up with fighting spirit.

And then, it was the large snake—that started a new attack. Black mineral dust rode upon the west wind and flew toward Yatagarasu and the twelve divine generals!

"This is—iron sand!?"

A great amount of black mineral dusts stained the large radiant body of Yatagarasu.

Black iron sands densely clung on the feathers and wings that contained the golden color of sun, covering up that radiance. It was like a sun that was dyed black by solar eclipse.

Due to the weight of the iron sand, the body of the sacred bird was gradually falling toward the ground.

In addition the iron sands were pulling against each other due to their magnetism, repressing the movement of the soaring great phoenix. Yes. Yamato no Orochi was a divine spirit that possessed the elements of fire and iron!

In that case. Riona=Yatagarasu called her underlings.

"Twelve divine generals, come to me!"

The shikigamis who were transformed into spirit of flame fused into Yatagarasu's body.

Yatagarasu who was covered in iron sand, her whole body was—enveloped in scorching conflagration.

"I'll melt the iron sand with this fire!"

However, it became an opening.

Yamato no Orochi shook its body that was still scorching white and stretched one of its eight tails toward the sky with whooshing sound, toward the flying Yatagarasu.

The scorching tail of the great snake was surprisingly slashing like a sword—to bisect Yatagarasu.

"Kuuuh!"

Riona immediately twisted her sacred bird body.

Thanks to that she was able to avoid direct hit, even so one of Yatagarasu's wings were slashed hard by the tip of the scorching tail. Red fresh blood scattered.

With her wing cut apart, she became unable to fly freely. She began to fall!

"Rokuhara-san!"

Riona sent her thought to her "goshujin-sama".

In order to demand for even more power, to grant her his power as godslayer.

However, there was no reply unlike usual. Riona returned from the form of Yatagarasu back into the figure of a high school girl in blazer, falling toward the forest of Osaka Castle Park.....

.

".....Are you intending to take revenge at me, Athena-san?"

"Of course, I have debt to you. You're the man who took down my retainer Nike and obstructed the destruction of Troia that was my aspiration. Although"

Athena chuckled at Ren's question.

The open space that commanded the view of Osaka Castle's keep. They were conversing at the middle of it.

"Victory or defeat is common for warrior and soldier. It's unthinkable for me to intentionally vindicate my honor to you while the god of this Japan is in the middle of showing her stuff. That's why this time——"

"This time?"

"If I can ascertain it, then that will be fine. Whether Rokuhara Ren will become my obstacle or not."

"By obstacle you mean, you have some kind of plan in the work?"

"Hmph. I told you the other day didn't I, Ren."

The one who suddenly interrupted was Stella.

The mini goddess-sama with height of 30 cm. She appeared with a puff on Ren's left shoulder.

"You see, the violent woman over there intend to destroy this surface world. She find it hard to forgive the pollution and blasphemy that the humans brought about!"

"The thing that you mentioned in Asakusa huh....."

Ren understood. Athena herself was grinning.

It seemed she had no intention of denying it. Well, from her action at Troia, he had already learned from long time ago that this goddess of wisdom and war was an owner of such thought.

Ren shrugged and said.

"I'm someone frivolous at all sort of things, but I'll at least display some motivation for volunteer work when the safety of earth is at stake. That's

why naturally——"

"You will stand as this Athena's enemy? Well, I know that's what you'll do."

The princess god who possessed hair of silver moon and eyes of night nodded magnanimously.

"I'm aware that this is how it will be. What. This time, what I want to see is——"how much of an obstacle" Rokuhara Ren can become."

"How much?"

"Umu. Caliber, wit, intelligence, spirit.....that kind of things."

The conversation was relaxed in a sense.

Even while they recognized each other as[opponent they would confront someday], they threw words to each other and read the other party's temperament from their reaction.

For Athena who was more belligerent and ferocious than anyone, it was "unlike" her.....

Ren slightly felt that something was out of place. It was then.

He felt like he was being called from far away. Someone was calling his name.

"....."

"What's the matter, Rokuhara Ren?"

"No, I think that Athena-san is a bit unfair."

"Fuh"

The goddess smiled ferociously. Ren ignored her and concentrated.

He just needed to do the same thing like at the Institution of Divinities before this. He wrung out his magic power with the intention of smashing all the magic that was applied here to trick and dazzle even the senses of godslayer.

However, this time he went at it seriously with all his strength.

This was most likely a barrier that could obstruct even the Contract of Wings with his partner—

"Riona!"

The moment he yelled the name of his fiancée and heightened his magic power in one go.

Prang! The binding barrier was smashed and Ren became able to perceive[what was happening dozens of meter ahead] that was hidden until now from him so that nothing could be conveyed to him.

—Yatagarasu was slashed by Yamato no Orochi's tail and fell.

—The thought of Riona who was seeking her goshujin-sama was transmitted.

"So it's as expected, the binding won't work if the curse isn't blown into the body....."

Athena muttered with a know-it-all airs.

Before this the sun god Apollo was also able to sever his connection with Riona just for a bit. Athena must be using a similar kind of barrier magic.

Ren grasped the situation and started walking briskly.

He passed right beside Goddess Athena to head where Riona was falling.

"Aren't you being really defenseless, Rokuhara Ren?"

Perhaps because his footsteps were like entering into his own house.

Athena asked him. It was when he was just passing right before her eyes. By the way Stella who was sitting on Ren's left shoulder stuck out her tongue 'bleh' at her old enemy.

"Obstructing your path with weapon in hand—that's something that can I do you know?"

"Hmph, just try it! You'll get the table turned on you. Isn't that right Ren!?"

"No, it's alright. I think Athena-san won't start anything."

Ren declared with confidence.

If Athena attacked, he would be able to activate Nemesis's escaping feet.

In that case he would be able to run to Riona's side in lightning speed, so it would be easier instead. Because of that Athena wouldn't make any move instead wouldn't she?

Ren passed through in front of Athena while holding expectation, but nothing happened.

In exchange, the goddess of wisdom and war whispered this.

"Kukuku. Are you hiding your claws, or is this your nature, I still cannot really get a read on you. How really shrewd. As I thought, you're a godslaying beast. The sworn enemy of gods who is overflowing with cunning and wildness. Perhaps the next time we meet will be the day of our decisive battle....."

Athena didn't even show any sign of pursuing.

.

Thus, Ren parted from the goddess and began sprinting with all his might.

With him being unable to use Nemesis's godspeed, he could only run using his two legs at full speed.

"Don't shake me too much, Ren!"

"Please endure it. My fiancée is in a pinch!"

Ren objected at Stella on his shoulder while nimbly running.

Fortunately the Contract of Wings taught him. His partner was still going strong. However, it didn't mean that she was unharmed or safe. It would be better to hurry.

Ren rushed through the vast ground of Osaka Castle Park without stopping. And then.

"Ren-sama, over here!"

"Cassandra!"

A voice called him from the minitruck that was moving fast from the other side.

The one holding the wheel on the driver's seat was of course the Troia princess. But although the minitruck had dropped its speed, she didn't stop it completely. Ren also didn't stop running.

They ended up running side-by-side toward the same direction. Even so.

"The eight headed monster, it didn't come chasing you guys!?"

"No-. What saved us—must be Riona-sama!"

The minitruck ran from the park at west wing of Osaka Castle to the southeast. They were trying to shake off Yamato no Orochi that was crawling toward there.

The current location where Ren and the minitruck met up was nearby Hokoku Shrine.

"Ren, get on!"

"Sorry, Julio!"

Julio leaned forward from the minitruck's cargo bed and reached out his hand.

Ren firmly grabbed that hand and jumped with all his strength. After that with his own physical ability and Julio's arm strength, he somehow landed on the cargo bed.

"Wah. To think I'll be able to see Fight On scene in real life-!"(TN: There is a famous commercial scene of Lipovitan drink in Japan that people there called Fight! Ippatsu. Search ファイトー発 through google sensei and watch the youtube link from there if you want to see)

Fumika who was also on the cargo bed was watching with sparkling eyes.

"The entanglement of two handsome men is wonderful just as I thought!"

"This girl, there are times when she is emitting an awfully evil sentiment....."

Stella who was still sitting on Ren's shoulder frowned. Julio was also making a dubious face.

"Certainly. What do you mean by that, Fumika?"

"Hahaha. Isn't that fine, this too is this girl's hobby."

Ren put his arm around the shoulder of the baffled Julio. Ren brought his lips near the ear of the Latino young noble and spoke his gratitude from the bottom of his heart.

"Thanks, that was really a great help."

"This too is my duty, don't mind it. More importantly Ren, your face is too close."

"Isn't it fine. This too is a service♪"

"?"

"U, uwaa. Amaziiiing. Nuzzling cheek and cheek, it's truly a 2.5D paradise. I might get a bit of nosebleed....."

Ren called at his sister-in-law who was starting to get absorbed into her own world.

"By the way Fumika-chan. How is Riona?"

"Fueh!?"

The second daughter of Toba House jerked and immediately covered up her true nature.

"The, there is no danger to her life, and she has also stopped bleeding so she's fine. But, she still isn't conscious."

Riona was laid down on the minitruck's cargo bed.

Her blazer was taken off and she was only wearing underwear on her upper body. But her skirt was still in place, so it was quite a perverse appearance.

Her left upper arm was wrapped in bandage. She had been given first-aid treatment.

Come to think of it, Yatagarasu's wing was slashed by the great snake's tail. The wound must be reflected on Riona's arm. Ren nodded.

"Got it. Then, what's left is to escape from here!"

He already used up all his stock of retributive justice. His third authority Contract of Wings was also impossible to be used with his partner down right now.

"That's right Stella. Can we try calling some friend?"

"Stupid Ren! This is the surface world, on top of that it's island country at the farthest end of the east you know!?"

The minimum goddess on his left shoulder spoke indignantly.

"A god who have good compatibility with me cannot be found that easily!"

"That might be so but, please try just once. We've got nothing to lose giving it a try."

"It can't be helped-. —Come, o friend of foreign country that I haven't met. Bestow the goddess of beauty and love with thy momentary friendship!"

When Stella used her authority the Circle of Friendship.

Gouuuuuuuuuuuuu! Gouuuuuuuuuuuuu!

Two of the eight sneak heads spewed out flame at the same time toward the running minitruck. However, Cassandra stepped on the gas pedal with nice timing—

They shook free before the flame reached them!

The speed of the minitruck rose further.

100 km/hour, 120, 140, 160—the acceleration was still not stopping.

"Kyaaaah!"

Fumika screamed. Because of the sudden acceleration, the wind pressure felt painful.

"Stella! You go hide!"

"I, I know!"

Being told that by Ren, his partner the small goddess vanished with a puff.

However, thanks to the outrageous acceleration of the minitruck, they were finally able to escape from the firing range of the flame breath. Ren rejoiced.

"This truck's amazing. It can produce this much speed!"

"It'll be impossible with normal method. But I applied the magic of Double Speed and tuned it up just in case before this. This is the effect of that."

"Good work, as expected from Julio!"

The minitruck ran at full speed inside Osaka Castle Park.

But, the gigantic Yamato no Orochi was unexpectedly fast for its huge body.

That giant body mowed down the trees around the keep and places like the concert hall while pursuing right behind the minitruck of Ren and co.

Gouuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu!

They were in the range of the flame breath once more. It was just a hair breadth's away from reaching the minitruck.

Rush. Rush. The minitruck was rapidly speeding up with its engine working in full. And then, the leading actress of the escape drama Cassandra yelled from the driver's seat.

"By the way Ren-sama, where should we be heading to!?"

"Aa. In this situation, it might be good to head toward Osaka Bay-!"

The orange evening sun was just starting to set right now.

If they ran toward that direction, they should reach the sea. Ren recalled Osaka's geography and said that without any deep thought. It was then.

‘Suuuu’, Fumika pointed at the opposite direction of the setting sun.

"You bunch of fools. Over there, hurry to where I am, don't waste even a single second!"

The face of the rebuking Fumika seen from the side looked gallant.

The girl who was going ‘kyaa kyaa’ at Ren and Julio's close contact before this now was like a different person. Furthermore the girl's eyes were shining blue like sapphire!

It was the same like when Riona fully unleashed her ability.

Ren was immediately struck with an idea and yelled at the princess on the driver's seat.

"Cassandra! To the east, head toward the opposite direction of the sun!"

"Understood!"

And then the minitruck finally rushed out of Osaka Castle Park and came out to the public highway that was running parallel with Hanshin Highway—.

They headed straight to the east. The car explosively rushed with the setting sun behind it.

Chapter 5 – To Nara...

1

The curtain of night was chasing away the remaining setting sun.

The minitruck of Ren and co drove wildly straight to the east from Osaka Castle Park and arrived until a mountain's foot.

"Isn't this Ikoma Mountain?"

"That's a familiar name. It's the sacred mountain at Riona and Fumika's home town."

Ren and Julio whispered to each other on the minitruck's cargo bed.

On the other hand, the second daughter of the local sisters spoke strongly.

"Yosh—. Cross this mountain and rush to where I am!"

Toba Fumika wasn't a type who was overflowing with dominating aura by any means.

However right now her voice and expression were gallant or perhaps even haughty. Her way of speaking was also domineering. Rather she was closer to her big sister Riona right now.

Fumika's eyes were still shining blue even now. Ren asked.

"By the way you are.....who? It's fine to consider you not as Fumika-chan, but as [the person inside] who is possessing this girl right?"

"So you realized, godslayer."

[Fumika] grinned fearlessly which was "unlike" her.

"Well, my introduction will be for later. I'll introduce myself directly to you. Right now let's just say that I'm a noble who far surpassed your imagination."

"Hee. I'm looking forward to it."

It seemed to be a ghost with really strong self-assertion. Ren smiled.

Stella who was on his shoulder before this had disappeared. Riona was still lying down on the cargo bed. Cassandra was continuing her furiously vigorous driving on the driver's seat.

Troia's princess glanced at the rearview mirror and her well shaped eyebrows frowned.

"I can't shake it off at all-. How vexing!"

"It's true. Those guys too are persistent huh."

There was a group pursuing the minitruck that was driving in a speed of more than 100 km/hour from behind.

Although they had shaken off the kaiju Yamata no Orochi, Yomotsu Shikome—the female zombies boasting agility like lightning were running at full speed on the public road.

Furthermore, it was the formation of a large group with several hundreds of them!

They were mostly moving only their feet without swinging their hands. They were running rather than flying. Their running form was like ninja in manga or anime.

There was only a distance of 40 or 50 meter between the minitruck and zombie group.

"It remind me of bicycle race when seeing that."

Julio who came from Europe that was the center of cycle sports said that.

"Like Tour de France or Giro d'Italia. At present we're the group taking the lead escaping from the pursuit of the large group behind."

"Hahaha. In that case we mustn't get caught."

It was a development that often happened at road race. However, it was an accurate conjecture.

Ren turned his gaze toward the possessed [Fuymika] once more.

"By the way, we were expressly invited so we gratefully accepted but.....is it alright for those zombies to come along too?"

"Fuh. No need for worry, I'll chase them away around here."

The mysterious ghost boasted boldly with Fumika's face.

"I made the souls I borrowed from the ascetic just around here!"

The mountain pass to cross Ikoma Mountain from the direction of Osaka.

It was a perilous pass with continuous excessively meandering road. However, the minitruck finally climbed until near the summit.

There was a very retro looking amusement park visible at some distance away.

It wasn't a big park by all means. The buildings and attractions were all old. It was clear to see even within the evening darkness.

And then—two huge bodies rushed out from the amusement park.

Both of the bodies had height around eight meters. Their strange appearance dumbfounded Ren.

"Eh.....? Isn't that, ogre!?"

Rokuhara Ren had encountered various divine mystery and apparition until now.

He was already used from a long time ago against that kind of creature. But, this time he felt shocked after so long. He witnessed not something related with foreign mythology—but a well-known monster of Japanese mythology, ogre. His feeling when he was a normal human was resurrected.

A red ogre and blue ogre with two horns growing from their head.

Two ogres appeared at Ikoma Mountain and got between the minitruck and Yomotsu Shikomes.

One ogre had a body that was colored completely red. A loincloth was wrapped around his sturdy naked body and he was holding an iron axe.

The other ogre was blue all over. Furthermore she had female body. She was wearing a kimono without sleeves like a vest and a loincloth. She was holding a large flagon made from iron in one hand.

—The red ogre largely opened his mouth and blew out scorching conflagration.

—The blue ogre unleashed intense water current from the iron flagon she was holding with both hands.

Around two or three hundred Yomotsu Shikomes gathered as group, dashing through Ikoma's mountain pass. But, the terrific torrent of flame and water swallowed them.

Half of the female monsters were burning in crackling flames, while the other half were crushed by water pressure.

"Oh my. That's splendid!"

Cassandra watched the sweeping victory through the rearview mirror and praised.

She stepped on the brake and slowly decelerated. Finally the minitruck came to a stop. On the cargo bed, Fumika who was possessed by the ghost chuckled.

"Kukukuku. Zenki and Goki who I borrowed from the ascetic of Ikoma..... They're really useful. Have you seen the real strength of our Yamato, godslayer?"

"Yamato?"

Ren tilted his head. The weak voice of his fiancée became his salvation.

"The great and splendid land of Yamato.....in other words, that's the ancient way to call Nara."

"Riona!"

Riona who recovered her consciousness somehow lifted up her upper body.

.

Ren and co finally welcomed the night at Ikoma Mountain's top.

There also wasn't any sign of further pursuit from Yomotsu Shikome, so they used the minitruck to return to the retro amusement park they passed by before this and took a break there.

It must be the effect of the great zombie outbreak. There wasn't any sign of people at all in the amusement park.

But, fortunately the outside lights along the road were on, so it wasn't a total darkness.

The group got down from the minitruck under that dim light. Fumika who was still being possessed by ghost suddenly talked haughtily.

"I shall introduce myself once more. I am Umayado no Ooji."

"Hou, the imperial prince of the country of rising sun."

"So you're a royalty of the country of Japan. I am Cassandra of Troia. Fufufufu, I've been planning to someday make my visit to the royalty of

this country!"

Julio easily nodded while Cassandra was cheerfully rejoicing.

In contrast, the modern Japanese duo exchanged glances.

"It feels like I heard an amazing name just now....."

"Me too. In other words, you're Shotoku Taishi then....."(TN: Shotoku here means imperial virtue/heavenly virtue, while Taishi means crown prince)

"Fuh. That's the posthumous name that the common people devoted to me after my death. Certainly that name is worthy for my virtue and authority. It's understandable that they would wish to worship and revere me. All of you can also kneel and chant my name anytime you wish for spiritual support for your heart."

For a nobleman who was sacred and overflowing with virtue, he was a person with great confidence and really high-handed attitude.

Riona seemed to want to say something. Most likely she was harboring a doubt [This person might be a fraud]. However, come to think of it—Ren recalled.

(.....Is this the work of Stella's Circle of Friendship?)

"Your highness was really loved by your people."

On the other hand, Cassandra praised the prince with seriousness that seemed to come from her heart.

"Because I kept making nothing but ominous prophecy, I was really hated by my people. I truly envy you!"

"Ha, ha, ha, ha"

The ghost possessing Fumika, Shotoku Taishi (?) laughed loudly.

"Don't worry yourself, princess of foreign country. A brilliant talent like me is born only every two thousand years, or perhaps not even then. There is no need to shed tears that you're unable to be like this Uyamado."

".....If he is the real deal, then he was unexpectedly an amusing person wasn't he....."

".....The face that was printed on the past bill looked really serious though....."

Riona and Ren were whispering to each other. It was then.

Perhaps because of the loud laughter, Fumika's body and the spirit were separated.

Right beside the girl middle school student—a slim young man suddenly appeared. He had terribly slender features that looked androgynous. And then his body was faintly transparent.

He was a transient looking handsome young man that might look similar or not with the portrait at the old 10,000 yen bill.

He was wearing a hou with orange color traditionally worn by the crown prince that looked like morning sun. He was also wearing a traditional cap of the same color and white slim hakama. A straight sword and its sheath were hanging on his waist.

The ghost possessed an aesthetic impression coupled with his exotic ancient garment.

And then Fumika was—

"Onee-chan, sorry. I caught the eyes of strange people....."

She apologized shamefully.

Ren noticed. There was one more ghost behind Fumika.

It was a short old man wearing white Japanese clothes. It was a vestment of Shugendo. There was a binding kasaya from his neck and leggings from his knees below.

Under the old man there were also dwarves the size of a palm—no, they were two small ogres.

They were the red ogre and blue ogre that saved Ren and co just now.

.

2

Osaka Castle once was called the famous castle of the whole country.

But, the number of years its keep could be seen wasn't long by all means.

The castle that was built by its first master, Toyotomi Hideyoshi was burning at the summer campaign of the siege of Osaka (1615 CE) together with the fate of Toyoyomi Clan. Later on Tokugawa Clan rebuilt the castle, but it was also burned down by a lightning strike.

The castle wouldn't hold for forty years every time it was completed and it would be lost.

However, the keep that was rebuilt at the early days of Showa Era—stayed safe for more than eighty years and “flourished” as Osaka's symbol.

—*Shuuuuuuuuuuuu.....*

And then right now an eight headed and eight tailed snake was coiling around the keep.

It was Yamata no Orochi. It winded around the famous castle of the whole country with its huge body as though the castle belonged to it. It seemed the snake was pleased with the building.

Shuuu, shuuu, air was breathed out from each nostrils of the eight heads.

And then, at the roof of Osaka Castle's keep.

"Hohohoho. My children, multiply. Fill. In order to bury this country with the people of underworld. The beast standing in my way——"

The lovely queen of the realm of the dead, Izanami was singing the words of power of creation.

"In order to corner that cursed godslayer and consign him to oblivion. And above all else to reap my husband's.....that person's people without leaving even a single one alive, in order to eradicate them all."

Osaka Castle Park——corpses were clamoring inside the vast ground there.

One, and then one more Yomotsu Shikome crawled out from underground. As if buried corpses were being resurrected still in their rotten body.

Yokotsu Shikomes that were gathered inside the park were already numbering more than ten thousand.

They were wailing from their mouths with voice that resembled weeping.

.....Kunishimemashishi kakasama, himemikosama ja.....

.....Kunishimemashishi kakasama, himemikosama ja.....

.....Kunishimemashishi kakasama, himemikosama ja.....

It was cheers. Honorable mother who occupy the country, the majestic imperial queen——. The females were directing gaze of adoration toward the goddess standing on the roof of the keep with blank eyes.

The great goddess Izanami was a mother and a queen for the Yomotsu Shikomes.

And then, all of them were waiting in anticipation. For all of them to rush out all at once and devoured the flesh and blood of the living crowding outside the castle to their heart's content. They were waiting for the moment that order was given.

But Izanami was laughing loudly and elegantly on the roof of the keep.

"Hohohoho. My daughters, wait for a little bit more for now. I'm recovering right now from the wound that accursed godslayer dealt on me. It won't be too late to start for the advance of the army after that."

Right now was night. The curtain of night was covering the heaven and earth.

The people of the underworld were squirming. It was the suitable time for them to go in rampancy. But, the morning sun would rise after several more hours—.

And yet, Izanami threw her voice to the ground like a loving mother.

"Rest assured, my children. The spirit of sun won't illuminate this country for the second time. I—the great god of underworld promise you so. Wait for the time to come with a tranquil heart!"

And then, a white heron was flying through the night sky.

It was looking down at Osaka Castle that looked completely out of this world right now. That was the shikigami that Japan's Institution of Divinities sent out.

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"That's the situation at Osaka Castle right now."

Headquarter of Institution of Divinities—.

One of the supervisors, Seishuuin Maki finished reporting.

The photos lined up on the room's tatami were the sight that was seen by the shikigamis and projected using Spirit Photography technique. They were prepared in order to show the situation to the person in charge of this organization on paper, the Head Kannagi.

After Takatsukasa Hinako looked at the photos in general and heard Maki's report, she sighed.

"Is this going to become an unprecedented national disaster?"

"Well of course. But, right now the information control is going well. Thanks to that the people aren't panicking. They're hiding inside their own house, workplace, or the evacuation shelter——"

"They are waiting with bated breath."

"Yes."

Although it was only on paper she was the top of the organization. Maki answered her with a casual tone.

Her composure came from how she was a daughter of Seishuuin, a famous name in magic world. Actually, she was a young lady who had associated with the noble princess shrine maiden since her childhood as though they were relative.

And above all else, whether for good or for bad she had a non humble personality.

However right now Maki was reporting the situation with a grave expression.

"If there is a silver lining from this.....space distortions has appeared often in this one year. Thanks to the repeated disaster respond, the arrangement toward the mass media could be finished swiftly. The civilians also became completely aware of what action to take at emergency situation. But"

This time it was Maki who sighed.

"If the zombies gushing out from Osaka Castle come out, it won't matter anymore. It will be the end for the whole Kansai area. The destruction of Japan also won't be that far at the future....."

"Then, our only hope is as expected"

"The fiancée that Riona and Julio bring from who know where—the godslayer-sama, everything will rest on his shoulders. If that fella can turn the table of the goddess and army of the underworld, then we might still have a sliver of hope to survive."

"Right right, about that Riona-san"

Hinako-sama clapped her hands together.

"What happened to her after that? You were able to connect to her phone right?"

"Yes. They escaped until the border of Osaka and Nara, Ikoma Mountain where they're rallying themselves right now. She also said that a local old boy of Nara also came to help out."

"Old boy, what does she mean by that?"

Hinako-sama was puzzled by Maki's explanation.

.

"So in the end, the Circle of Friendship that I asked Stella to activate worked?"

"Yes. Because that death god woman called Izanami something came out to the surface, the dead are also becoming animated."

Stella who materialized herself once more answered Ren's question.

"Thanks to that ghosts related to the bird girl and her little sister—to their clan came here. Not god with good compatibility with me. Well, there

is no way there will be a friend of Aphrodite this far in the east, so it's understandable really."

"That's a big help. We're lucky."

"It's not fortune. Ren isn't connected to just me, you're also bonded with that bird girl through a sacred contract, being on—or something, so it's only natural that the ties from there can be used."

In the middle Stella was mumbling her words unintelligibly. But Ren immediately noticed.

"Aa, you mean we're one in body and soul."

"Wha, what's your intention, why are you using those words for that girl too!?"

Putting aside the argument with his small partner—.

Ren and co went down from Ikoma Mountain and moved to Ikoma City of Nara Prefecture.

They went to Riona's home. However, the parents of Toba family were away from home.

At the afternoon, most of the Japanese zombies that were overflowing in Kansai region were eradicated by the power of Riona who transformed to Yatagarasu. But, a part of them were still alive and roamed everywhere. The parents of Toba sisters were also called in order to "hunt" those survivors.

Although they were easygoing and eccentric husband and wife, they were still people involved with the Institution of Divinities.

And then a [social gathering] was held in the garden of the mansion that wasn't attended by the owner. The sisters of Toba House along with Umayado no Ouji as well as "one more person" formed a circle and talked.

"......Toba is a family of onmyouji that is descended from Kamo clan."

Riona stated while staring at the ghost of old man wearing the vestment of Shugendou.

"As fellow descendant of Kamo clan, the great Shugendou practitioner of Heian era, En no Gyoja came to help us.....it's alright for me to think of it like that isn't it?"

"Yes. It's just as you say, Onee-chan."

Fumika watched the old ascetic [lip-syncing] and acted as his interpreter.

His name was En no Otsunu. The great Shugendo practitioner who was also called En no Gyoja seemed unable to have his voice got heard by the living people. He was a ghost as expected.

However the girl who had disposition as spirit medium wasn't limited to that——

Fumika who temporarily became an interpreter explained the lip-syncing further.

"Because Gyoja-sama's home town is also Ikoma Mountain like us, it's also the reason why he appeared here he said."

"That's really great. When speaking about En no Otsunu who had the fierce god children Zenki and Goki as his shikigami, he is a big name who rivaled Kukai or Abe no Seimei in occult battle manga. In X-Men he would be like a great senior at the level of Cable or Professor X. We'll happily welcome him to our team but....."

Glance. Riona looked at the ghost of Umayado no Ouji.

"When it come to story relating the ancestor, I've the feeling that Kamo clan and Shotoku Taishi has the worst compatibility."

"Hou? Why is that, Yatagarasu's reincarnation?"

The ghost of Umayado no Ouji spoke firmly to them.

His voice could be heard clearly even to the ear of Ren, Cassandra, and Julio.

Because his fame was an order of magnitude higher than En no Gyoja at the modern world, his [status as ghost] was also far higher. It seemed that this was the effect of that.

Umayado no Ouji spoke with a beautiful voice that was suitable with his noble and androgynous appearance.

"Certainly when I was alive I joined hand with Soga clan and destroyed the Mononobe clan which was the ancestor of your Kamo clan. But didn't that something that happened more than 1400 years in the past already?"

"So you completely understand!"

"Ha, ha, ha, ha. Never mind about the trivial past."

Umayado no Ouji laughed elegantly and magnanimously. He hid his mouth with the sleeve of his robe.

"You see, I wish to notify the people of the present world in this chance."

"What is it?"

"Yamato is a great and splendid land. That expression is also referring to how the country was turning out a great number of capable people excelling in virtue and spiritual power who left their name in history. For example people like me or the ascetic over there."

Riona sighed at Umayado no Ouji's confident manner.

"Is that something that you speak about yourself....."

"Try thinking about it. At Yamashiro region—the capital that is called Kyoto today, if you speak about people of great ability with excellent spiritual power who originated from there, at best you will only find Sugawara no Michizane or Abe no Seimei, isn't that right?"

"Aaa.....certainly that might be true."

Riona was taken aback when the prince pointed that out.

"Like High Monk Saichou, he isn't so bad as a scholar, but his mystical power as Mikkyo monk is questionable. Even though Kyoto's Hiei Mountain was his home, he originated from Shiga. Kukai-san who is Kobo Daishi originated from Shikoku and moved to Wakayama's Koya Mountain. He was in Kyoto only for a very little part of his life. In the first place if you also consider the birthplace, then even Lord Michizane of Tenmangu shrine actually also originated from Nara....."

"The petty official Seimei was born around Naniwa wasn't it?"

"Yes, indeed. Settsu region's Abeno village.....he originated from Osaka. Actually that person too claimed that he was related with Kamo clan, but that pedigree is perhaps a fabrication."

Riona spoke with vigor right now.

"In the first place Abe no Seimei is a person with very dubious background!"

"I see. Well, anyway that is my thought. Do you understand?"

"Yes! This is an unprecedented national disaster, we should forget about love and hate of the past at this moment!"

"Onee-chan. Gyoja-sama said [Poor though it be, I too shall give my all with this limited ability of mine. We shall make the lot of the imperial capital about our virtue and influence]. He said [Even now I haven't forgotten the exile to Izu], it looks like he is quite angry."

"Now that you mentioned it, En no Gyoja also had quarrel with the imperial court of Kyoto....."

The sisters and two ghosts were getting heated up at Toba house's garden.

Ren and others were sitting on the open veranda while watching them. The princess of Troia royalty smiled in front of the circle of ancient Japan's sage and sorcerer.

"Fufufufu. Riona-sama, she really hit it off with Uyamado no Ouji."

"That's because the two of them seems to be similar people."

Julio also nodded with an admiring expression.

"Someone with aspiration, extensive knowledge, and also wisdom and greatness. They are young people who is a cut above the rest, with great confidence, and also many enemies..... The two of them are similar people, so it would be difficult to predict whether they will harbor enmity against each other or hit it off, but it looks like this time thing is progressing well."

"Yes. It's truly great♪"

"Well, perhaps it'll be only while their interests are lined up, but that's enough for now."

On the other hand, Rokuhara Ren was secretly harboring a concern.

He had the Contract of Wings between him and Riona. Through that it was also conveyed to him just how tense she was and how she was behaving energetically.

And then, there was someone who was fixing a glare at Ren who was like that.

Someone sitting right beside him on the open veranda—his partner, the small goddess of beauty and love Stella.

.

Late at night—.

Rokuhara Ren and his companions stayed the night at Toba house and went to bed.

However, there was someone who went out of their futon late at night with rustling sound, crossed the wooden corridor with stealthy steps, and secretly visited a room some distance away.

The person kneeled in front of the sliding screen, and opened it without making any sound.

Immediately the person sneaked inside by walking on his knees toward the girl—then Ren called out.

"Riona."

"!? Why are you awake, Rokuhara-san!?"

The sleepwear of the dumbfounded Riona was a plain white kimono.

Come to think of it, she was born in an old family that inherited the secret techniques of ancient Japan. It was only natural that she was also accustomed with wearing kimono.

Ren nodded at his fiancée's unexpected side. On the other hand, Riona was flustered.

"Even though this is an emergency situation, what are you doing here this late at night-? Rokuhara-san is the most important key person. Taking rest is also within your job description!"

"I've to return those exact words back at you."

"I, it can't be helped for me. There're things that I have to do at night."

"Like attacking me at my sleep?"

"uaaaaaaa....."

Riona weakly fell prostrate at Ren hitting the nail on the head.

She buried her face and slender limbs on the laid out futon. Perhaps she didn't want to show her expression right now from embarrassment.

By the way Ren didn't even lie down on the futon and kept waiting while standing.

"You see, I'm concerned."

The kimono sleeves of Riona who was falling prostrate were lifted up.

The bandage wrapped around her upper left arm could be seen. It was the wound that she got from the battle at the evening.

"The damage from before this is still remaining right, Riona?"

"Healing magic has been applied, so that kind of scratch is completely healed. There shouldn't be any problem even if the bandage is taken off anytime."

"But, your magic power thingie is mostly like running out of gas."

"....."

"From the wound that was dealt by the snake kaiju before this, I felt—like that kind of magic power fuel was mostly flowing out. Remember. I'm one in body and soul with Riona, so I seem to understand."

"A pointlessly sharp goshujin-sama is also troubling isn't it....."

Riona was still burying her face onto the futon.

However, the moment Ren sat down beside her, she reached out with her right hand. She touched the lap of Ren who was sitting cross-legged while spitting out her words mumblingly into the futon.

"When it become an emergency situation like this, as expected my own power tend to become insufficient. After all I'm the retainer of the

godslayer Rokuhara Ren—. If I'm not granted the source of spiritual power that can possibly oppose a god from goshujin-sama, I won't be able to interfere with a battle of legendary level....."

"Yep."

"At that kind of time my contract with Rokuhara-san will rapidly send me power. But in exchange, my beast mode will be activated and drive me into rampage....."

"That seems to be the case."

It was a conversation between Riona who was lying on the futon and Ren who was sitting on the same futon.

However, despite the words that were formed indifferently, a ghastliness like killing intent was flickering and oozing from the back of his kimono wearing partner—.

"It's making me wanting it no matter what....."

"I'll happily accept the trouble."

Gaba-. Riona lifted her body in a flash, and then—

When Ren noticed, he was already pushed down.

It was a roughness like a carnivore. In addition the kimono wearing Riona bent over Rokuhara Ren and gazed at her master's face like a female panther.

Glimpse of the valley of her breast could be seen from her messy kimono's collar. It was terribly captivating.

"I have to be an even stronger existence. Can I receive a power as queen that will allow me to oppose even Goddess Izanami?"

"Of course. You can take as much as you like."

"That's an ideal response, goshujin-sama."

It was only her words that were like servant, but her expression and tone were completely that of a queen.

Riona's eyes were tinged with bewitching blue radiance right now. She was staring at Rokuhara Ren like a prey. Her gaze was filled to the brim with hunger, desire, and pride.

She caressed Ren's cheek, patted his hand and chest, to be connected with him.

The magic power and great presence of godslaying beast that were dwelling inside his body and heart, those kinds of abstract things were flowing into Toba Riona too. They were shared.

Riona who pinned down her master stayed on top of him and pushed her thin body on Ren.

The two's bodies were glued on each other. The sensation of the girl's body that was soft and alluring despite her slenderness was completely conveyed to Rokuhara Ren—their point of contact increased.





The things that were flowing into the reincarnation of Yatagarasu were increasing further.

"Rokuhara-san....."

When he noticed Riona brought her face closer and plugged Ren's lips.

When Ren also let out his tongue and responded to her, the girl who possessed the soul of queen also stretched her tongue awkwardly and welcomed Ren—the connection between the two became even deeper and intense.

Their lips parted. Riona was looking down of Ren's face once more.

Inside the girl's blue eyes, he detected the ardent soul of female phoenix—it was then.

"Enough already with that, bird girl....."

"!? Why is Stella here!?"

"—Ah, that's right. I forgot to ask her to go somewhere else today."

Without them noticing, the mini goddess-sama appeared beside the futon.

Riona was shocked, and Ren also noticed his blunder. Stella aka the goddess of beauty and love Aphrodite faced the two and exposed her anger.

"I've known that this things has always been happening night after night-. To dare to barge into even the bedroom of this me, there's a limit even in being insolent! This is a good chance for you to learn how much you ought to respect a god, so I'll slowly discipli—"

"Ei-"

Riona who lifted up her body from above Ren called a charm—

And threw it along with a short voice. The charm cut through the air and stuck on Stella's forehead. The charm was painted with onmyoudou's spell passage and the symbol of pentagram.

Stella's whole body jerked and turned stiff. She couldn't even twitch.

She fell into complete paralysis with a large charm as tall as her stuck on her body.

"Even if you're formerly a goddess, the current Stella is too fragmentary of an existence....."

Riona boasted with her two eyes shining in sapphire color.

"If you attempt to seriously apply a spell on me in this full power state, as you can see—"

"Do.....don't flatter yourself, bird girl!"

Stella's mini sized body that was 30 cm tall was starting to tremble.

Like that she slowly but steadily moved both her hands. With a shredding sound she was trying to tear away the charm of binding from her body. Tremble. Tremble.

She was only trembling and her hands' movement stopped in the middle.

"Don't force yourself. There is no way you can resist my spell's power."

".....Ho, how dare you make light of me, you'll regret that! Know that the goddess of Cyprus won't be beaten by any means in the bedroom!"

"Eh? Stella, kun—!?"

Ren also lifted his body. It was then a miracle occurred.

Stella's body that was like a doll until now suddenly enlarged.

However, although she enlarged, her body height was still less than 160 cm. She was smaller than even Riona. She was also slender. But the goddess's body style was glamorous.

Her childlike beautiful face was still the same like before.

However now Stella's chest was heavily laden with ripe breasts to an unbalanced degree with the youthfulness of her face, the line of her waist until her butt was also splendidly tight and voluptuous. It was truly a sexy dynamite body shape.

The enlarged Stella easily tossed away the charm and smiled seductively.

"Fufuh. As you can see, this is what happens when I get serious. I've been thinking about it from a long time ago but, bird girl.....aren't you too thin? You're only bone and skin."

"Wha-!?"

"It seems that your little sister has it far better at that kind of development."

"What're you saying! Fumika is gaining too much weight because of her lack of exercise-. Though she slimmed down a bit since she recently started doing road bike because of her fujoshi taste! Frankly speaking, my body style should be the ideal style for a girl you know!?"

Riona insisted even while feeling flustered.

Those words were persuasive when they were said by her who had slender body style like a model.

However, Stella sneered "chuckle" as though looking down on her and folded her arms in order to emphasize her busts.

Her two arms intentionally lifted up her voluptuous breasts.

"Fufufufu. Don't you think that a woman's honor is to be loved by the gentlemen?"

"Don't say such stupid things. That kind of old-fashioned sense of value might work at ancient Greece, but it won't pass in this 21st century!"

"Oh, I wonder which one of us is the stupid one? You see, a man is someone who you lead by the nose."

Stella=Aphrodite chuckled with ridiculing sneer.

"You don't even need to cry and cling on them. Those bunches are all great idiot without exception. If I flirt with them just for a bit, they will immediately show a lewd look and kneel before me you know? Oo Aphrodite, bestow me your affection, they'll say!"

Stella said that while pushing down Riona in a flash.

"Bird girl.....I wonder if you'll be able to resist the pleasure that Aphrodite grants you?"

"Wa, wait Stella! What in the world do you intend to—nn, ah!?"

"Fufufufu"

Stella pushed her lips on Riona's neck while smiling.

"Hey bird girl, did you notice? I and Ren are one in body and soul. You and Ren are also one in body and soul. In other words, I and you are sharing a common destiny through Ren."

"Eh?"

"And, Toba Riona who obtain fulfillment in her heart and body by being in touch with Rokuhara Ren—is naturally able to taste the same enjoyment from being in contact with Aphrodite too....."

"Nn—! Ple, please stop, Ste.....aah!?"

"Ufufu. Like this even a cheeky girl like you is a cute little thing."

"A, ah. Sto, stop—Stella....."

"Relax your body. Your heart and body are recovering most of their strength by being in touch with me, and it doesn't stop with that, your reserve should be increasing even more than before with this."

"Aa——"

"Riona. It's just as Stella said. It's better that you rest for a bit."

"Rokuhara-san....."

"Ren!?"

At the timing when Riona's eyes were hazy and she entered a dreamy state of mind.

Ren nonchalantly intervened. He caressed the cheek of his ecstatic fiancée, his tongue crawled on her earlobe, and he whispered to her.

"Nn.....nn-"

Riona desperately pressed her lips together so that her voice wouldn't leak.

Then, Stella also sweetly bit at the ear on the opposite side of Ren's caress and whispered this.

"Right now you just restore your energy. Leave your body to me and Ren, as though you're entrusting your body to the flow of honey and mil. Everything will be fine like that, bird girl....."

"——Aa.....-"

Riona leaked out her sigh and gasp, then her body was suddenly drained of strength.

She started breathing peacefully and fell asleep. The tension of her heart and body was finally loosened from the pleasure that Stella granted her. This was the proof of that.

Ren stared at the satisfied sleeping face of his fiancée and smiled.

"With this the nuisance is gone."

"Stella."

His small partner whose size now became suitable for Ren stared still at him.

Passion, eagerness, and then a faint sorrow were dwelling in her eyes.

"What do you think Ren? My appearance has become really close to the original me, the goddess Aphrodite."

"Looks like it. You look really lovely."

"I had said it to you before this too but..... I don't mind to especially allow you to do whatever you like to me."

Stella=Aphrodite smiled alluringly.

Beauty and charm that would fascinate every man (and sometimes even woman), making them her prisoner. Her stretching out arms and legs were plump while also slender like willow.

The existence who was the ultimate form of [woman] in a sense—was tempting Ren.

"Even Rokuhara Ren also has desire at least isn't it? After all you aren't tree or rock."

"That's true. Though, I also told you before already."

Ren smiled wryly and said.

"I'll refrain from going out with other person's wife."

"Oh? My husband is nowhere except in the world of mythology across time and fate faraway you know? More importantly than that—"

Stella quietly sidled up to him above the futon.

She leaned on Ren and glued her wonderful limbs on him. The scene of perfume rising from her blonde hair tickled his nose. It was sweet-smelling.

Stella began to fondle with Ren's chest using her slender index finger.

"It's really not like Ren to seriously be bothered about that kind of thing."

"Is that so?"





"Yes. You're an outrageous and unprecedented godslaying beast after all....."

Stella said while her lips moved closer.

She was shorter than him. Naturally the kiss was approaching from below. And then, Ren also moved to meet it—in the middle of that.

Shuuuuuuu A sound like air leaking out from a balloon came out.

"Wha-!?"

The goddess of beauty and love, her body was gradually deflating.

She returned back to the height of 30 cm—her usual doll size.

"As I thought, you cannot keep that size for long, Stella."

"A, after getting this far, just when it's getting good~!"

Stella was vexed while returning to her minimum goddess body.

Also, she was totally exhausted from her enlargement. She fell prostrate immediately on the futon along with Riona and started to breath peacefully in sleep. Ren smiled wryly.

"This time was a bit.....dangerous there."

As expected from the goddess of beauty and love Aphrodite.

In his competition with her, he couldn't always able to handle her with composure.

.

It seemed she had fallen asleep for around two hours.

Riona checked the time with the clock on the wall. She was on a futon in the detached room of her house. The sliding door was opened and the night sky was visible even from inside the room.

Thick cloud was covering the dark sky. There was no gap in the cloud at all.

And then, her “goshujin-sama” was sitting on the open veranda.

"Did you wake up, Riona?"

"Ye, yes. About just now, how should I say it, I've shown something unsightly....."

It was really rare that Riona was speaking incoherently.

The collar of her kimono was out of place and the valley of her breast could be seen. She fixed that in panic. Rokuhara Ren lightly smiled in front of such Riona.

"Yep. Your battle with Stella was really amazing."

"I, is that so....."

Glance. When she looked at her side, Stella was sleeping peacefully on the same futon.

Her body was as big as figurine as usual. What happened after she was unconscious? When Riona was going to ask.

"Yosh"

The goshujin-sama nodded and started talking.

"Looks like Riona too is alright already, so let's go right away."

"Where, to?"

"To where Izanami-san is. Is she still in Osaka Castle I wonder?"

"So we will take initiative to go out in offense!"

Riona guessed the meaning of Ren's statement and tensed her expression.

"I'll prepare in hurry. But, is it okay Rokuhara-san? You shouldn't have any stock of Retributive Justice in hand right now isn't it?"

"You're right. But I want to attack the enemy while she still hasn't recovered."

Rokuhara Ren wasn't a strategist by any means.

That was the role of Julio and Riona. But, as expected he was a godslaying beast. Perhaps his sense of smell was sniffing the critical moment. He went out for a big gamble with surprising ease.

Light and bold—. That was Riona's master and her future husband.

She didn't hate that side of him.

Riona smiled fearlessly and completely switched her feeling.

.

Thus the minitruck cut through the night breeze and ran toward Osaka.

"Our destination is the castle yesterday, is that correct?"

"Yep. When Riona checked with the people of Institution of Divinities, they said that Izanami-san hasn't moved from there. But she is increasing her zombie army by really a lot, and right now she already gathers more than twenty thousand."

The conversation happened on the minitruck's driver seat and assistant driver seat.

Cassandra was holding the wheel with complete familiarity. She declared gallantly at Ren who was at her side to show the way.

"Then, we'll have to arrive at the battlefield even by a second faster!"

"You really get it, Cassandra. I'll leave it in your hand!"

"Please leave it to me!"

Ren gave a thumb up with a smile. Cassandra drove the minitruck with a speed in the range of 100 km/hour.

The car was running parallel with Hanshin highway that was blockaded. There wasn't even a single car coming from the opposite direction. It was like a reserved circuit for them. The vehicle's speed was steadily increasing.

"Aa this can't do, what to do!"

Cassandra was making a troubled face while rapidly accelerating.

However, it wasn't because some kind of trouble was appearing.

"Now I wish to bring one or two of this kind of chariot back to Troia!"

"Let's try pleading at the uncles of Institution of Divinities later. If I win, I'll ask them to prepare one with speed as high as possible as bonus."

"Really? I'm very happy!"

Unlike the easygoing situation inside the vehicle, the cargo bed of the minitruck was really harsh.

Julio put up a magic barrier to protect the cargo bed from wind pressure above a certain limit. Even so, it didn't mean that it was completely calm there.

They were exposed to considerably strong wind, furthermore the air of the night was chilly.

Fumika who had the weakest mental was complaining.

"Uuuuu. Onee-chan, do I really have to come too? In the first place, I want to get down from this carr. It's cold, scary....."

"Naturally. It will be troubling without you taking care of Nara's
old boys ghost army."

Riona completely ignored her little sister's pleading.

Also, beside them Julio didn't even pay them any attention.

The Latino young noble who was the commander-in-chief of magical association Campiones was glaring at the sky. It was a night sky that was filled with dark cloud. He also checked his wristwatch.

"It's past 6 AM.....it's already morning."

Julio's voice was bitter.

"It'll be time for the morning sun to rise soon. But, there isn't any sign of that. Is this too also the influence of the appearance of the goddess of underworld?"

"It must be the case."

Umayado no Ouji's ghost nodded with seriousness.

"Our spiritual sense is telling us. As long as that goddess isn't removed, the sun won't rise no matter what."

"Stealing the sunlight from the surface world—. So "a common phenomenon" for the end of the world is also starting here. What a headache."

Julio spat out uneasily. On the other hand Riona stated.

"Just now you mentioned about spiritual sense nonchalantly but, does Umayado no Ouji has that kind of power?"

"What're you saying? The information regarding my strength is also circulated even at this era right? The Toyoto Mimi, to know things before it happen."

"The story about how you listened to the talk of eighteen people at once and predicted the future, all of that is true?"

"Umu."

"Then, even the anecdote of you riding a divine horse and flew in the sky is also.....?"

"How can the imperial prince with heavenly virtue is unable to even do a performance of that level?"

Riona pressed her forehead hearing what the legendary eminent figure telling her that in exasperation.

Able to predict the future, the reincarnation of a high priest of the ancient time, etc. There existed a great number of unrealistic legends about Shotoku Taishi.

"As expected from the "chosen person" who was born at the stable, your status is at different level....."

"That's amazing Onee-chan. He's exactly like [The Ruler of The Place of Sunrise] by Yamagishi Ryoko-sensei!"

The sisters including Fumika too were greatly impressed.

Umayado no Ouji. There were various opinions about the origin of that name.

It was because he was born in front of an umaya which meant stable. Or because he was born in a land that would become Umayado. Or it was because Nestorianism—Christianity of Nestorius faction that was

propagated from Roma Empire to Tang Dynasty had an anecdote [The son of god was born in a stable] which got spread to Japan, which then became the basis of Shotoku Taishi's legend.....

But, Riona knew about the hypothesis that was more abundant with persuasiveness.

"The king of heroes and the saint were born in a livestock pen—. This kind of legend existed at the east and west of Eurasian continent. The son of god Jesus. The founder of Goguryeo Kingdom Jumong who was discarded in a stable and pigsty when he was a baby. The ritual that depicted the birth of god of madness Dionysius was carried out in a cattle barn. All those were most likely the vestiges of totem faith that worshipped [animal] as god."

"Sometimes Onee-chan will say things like our father."

"Well, anyway. That's just how magnificent my strength is."

Perhaps because it was a talk that was lionizing him, Umayado no Ouji was listening with satisfaction, but.

He suddenly cut into Riona's long-winded speech.

"I shall lend something to you who are Yatagarasu. It's not only because of our relationship as someone of the same hometown. As an imperial family member I have the duty to protect Japan."

"Ah. Gyouja-sama also said that he will lend the ogres!"

Fumika interpreted the lip-syncing from En no Gyouja's ghost.

Riona turned her gaze to the direction the minitruck was advancing to.

They were already within Osaka. Several kilometers ahead she could see the group of high-rise buildings and the keep of Osaka Castle—. They would arrive at the battlefield before long.

With this many supporters gathered at their side, the same development like before wouldn't happen.

Riona took a deep breath ‘fuuuu’.

"—I'll be going."

The next moment, Riona's body and heart dashed toward the dark sky.

She transformed into the golden sacred bird Yatagarasu. The three legged bird that guided the empire founder in the past. Even against the darkness of the end, she spread her golden wings and illuminated the ground with her radiant majestic figure.

"Twelve divine generals, come to me!"

The twelve shikigamis serving Riona manifested and flew together with Yatagarasu.

They manifested as spirit of flame like usual. But, this time it didn't stop there.

The twelve divine generals creating a circle of blazing flame around Yatagarasu—there were two ogres inside that circle. At one side was a red ogre carrying an iron axe. The other one was a blue ogre carrying a water jug.

They were Zenki Gigaku and Goki Giken that En no Gyouja entrusted to her.

And then Umayado no Ouji also chanted words of power.

"I humbly wish to the four heavenly kings. Allow me sure victory against the enemy opposing me. Daitzura Taten, Birurokushi Yaten, Biruhakushi Yaten, Bishamonten—come Namu Shitennou!"

In respond to that, armored warriors appeared in the sky.

They joined the rank of the twelve divine generals that were forming a circle of flame and Zenki and Goki together with Yatagarasu. It was a group of four. Even ordinary people would remember seeing them somehow before from Buddhist picture or statue.

Even Rokuhara Ren who was poorly informed in regard to that kind of knowledge gasped in realization.

"Those gods, what are they again!?"

"Spirits related to a historical god of war—that's what I'm seeing from them!"

Cassandra saw through the four new summons. Behind her, Umayado no Uji on the minitruck's cargo bed smiled with a sigh.

"They aren't gods. They're devas. I prayed to the miraculous four heavenly kings and borrowed their resemblance as Gohou Douji. I'll entrust them to you, Yatagarasu!"

Dharma-protecting children

When Shotoku Taishi aka Uyamado Uji was sixteen years old.

The imperial court was promoting reception of Buddhist. The Mononobe clan that was advocating rejection of Buddhism plotted to overthrow the emperor.

The imperial court army that was led by the imperial prince and Soga no Umako was defeated until three times by Mononobe clan. In that pinch, Umayado no Uji prayed to Buddha.

—If I'm granted victory, I shall erect a temple tower for the sake of the four heavenly kings.

And then, the prince's army defeated Mononobe clan and he erected Shitennoji Temple that was remaining even now in Tennoji Ward of Osaka City. It was a famous temple that matched Houryou Temple.

.

"I will borrow them gratefully, your highness!"

Yatagarasu flew toward Osaka Castle. The will inside the bird, Riona yelled.

She was accompanied not only by the twelve divine generals and Zenki and Goki.

The four divine spirits in the form of warriors—Bishamonten, Jikokuten, Koumokuten, and Zouchouten were also with her.

The four of them were armored and intimidated the enemy with their angry look. They had matching hairstyle of their hair being bundled at the top of their head, but it was only Jikokuten who was wearing a helmet.

The weapons in their hand were spear, treasured sword, axe, and halberd. They were indeed the four heavenly kings.

Although, in the end they were only borrowed image. Their essence in the end was Gohou Douji dispatched from the four heavenly kings—in the onmyoudou term they were shikigamis.

However, they were summoned here from the saint Shotoku Taishi praying to the four heavenly kings.

"It's a peeve to acknowledge it but, honestly I feel that they are superior than even my twelve divine generals.....!"

Riona was heading to Osaka Castle as great phoenix that was shining golden.

The length of Yatagarasu's wings that were gallantly spread out fully was longer than twenty meter.

Around her were twelve divine generals moving in circle around her as flame spirits, Zenki and Goki, and then the four heavenly kings. Every one of them was also similarly huge in size.

The golden phoenix was flying with eighteen retainers surrounding her.

It was a battle formation that looked like a mandala with Yatagarasu at the center.

"This time I won't be defeated even with Yamato no Orochi as my opponent. I can also rampage as I please without feeling concerned of any human casualty. Just in case....."

Osaka Castle where Goddess Izanami and that Yamato no Orochi were encamped.

It was located at the center of Osaka Prefecture. The location was an office complex that was crowded with high-rise buildings. The character of the place was how the number of people going there to work numbered more than the people living there.

Even yesterday when there was a great outbreak of Japanese zombies, the place was bustling with a great number of people.

There should be a lot of people who failed to evacuate in the emergency. But, since yesterday the police force and JSDF were working hard through the night to announce and guide the evacuation.

Perhaps thanks to that Osaka's business district that was spreading below her—

Was completely empty from human as though its daily hustle and bustle were just a lie. It was like an abandoned city. Even Riona's spiritual sense could only feel very few human presences.

Riona sympathized inside Yatagarasu.

".....It should be fine even if they leave everything to me and goshujin-sama after things has come this far."

The combat group of JGSDF was deployed to surround Osaka Castle Park.

The infantry (in other words foot soldiers) company of JGSDF was on standby everywhere at the buildings and asphalt roadway.

And then—at Naniwa no Miyaato Park that was almost adjacent with Osaka Castle and possessed wide enough area.

Here, armored corps that consisted from battle tank Type 10 Hitomaru, mobile combat vehicle, self-propulsion howitzer, and in addition a weapon that could be called as JSDF's treasure, the self-propelled multiple mounting rocket ordnance (in short a trailer truck that was loaded with missile pods), and so on seemed to be gathered from everywhere in Kansai. This armored corps and artillery corps were positioned here.

Most likely they had already finished preparing the combat helicopter too.

When space distortion appeared at Kobe before this, the JSDF was also dispatched in respond against the disaster.

Riona who belonged to the Institution of Divinities sometimes would also cooperate with them in the fight against disaster and monster of sanctuary. However, this time the scale was different.

The surface corps below—the ki that their body and heart emitted was really weak.

Fear, terror, nervousness, anxiety. She could only feel that kind of things from them.

"This time it's obviously like a scene of great battle against kaiju, so it can't be helped. I wish they will immediately retreat to safe area when it get dangerous....."

Osaka Castle Park was already just a stone's throw ahead. From here she would concentrate to the battle.

The great kaiju with eight heads and eight tails coiling around the keep, Yamato no Orochi.

And even more important than it was above the roof, where the queen of underworld Izanami was waiting—.

(Riona)

A telepathy from goshujin-sama was transmitted to her.

(We're already at this pahse. Right now do it just like I planned.)

".....Are you serious, Rokuhara-san?"

(It's fine. Now that things has reached this stage there is no way I can finish this safely. Rather than fighting while paying attention to every single little things, taking care of everything right from the start with a bang will be——)

"Certainly that will be refreshing.....that might be good. Understood!"

Yatagarasu=Riona smiled with a queen's boldness.

Later even if there was any complaints, she would shut out all of them——!

"This lowly self wish to reverently state in the presence of Sume-Mikami.....by the means of the burning flame and my malediction, purify and exorcise!"

The words of power of fire and sun surged out from the beak of Yatagarasu.

Instantly, the shikigamis twelve divine generals who transformed into spirit of fire charged toward the great enemy Yamato no Orochi and——the keep of Osaka Castle that was coiled around by that kaiju!

Gouuuuuuuuu——uuuuuuuuuuun——!

Whirling flame and shockwave ran wild.

The keep that somehow survived even the air raid at the Pacific War was swallowed by crimson flame and got blown away everywhere by explosions and impacts.

And then, this flame blast spread out until the whole Osaka Castle Park——

It became a gigantic half-spherical dome that annihilated everything it swallowed!

Whether it was the Osaka Castle's keep, the inner moat, the outer moat, the shrine, and even the surrounding park. And even the tens of thousands of Japanese zombies Yomotsu Shikomes.

And the most affected was the eight headed and eight tailed great snake monster coiling around the keep.

—*ShuuuuAAAAAAAaaaaaaaaaaaaa!?!*

Yell of anguish was let out from the mouths of all its eight heads. Yamato no Orochi was writhing inside the dome of flame in anguish. The eight necks were desperately stretching up until the air inside the fire.

"I already understand your battle strength after all."

Riona looked down at the snake monster and Osaka Castle that were going up in flames while muttering.

"There is no need for wait and see. I'm going full power right from the first round!"

In contrast with the blazing flame, Yatagarasu's eyes were observing the enemy's state calmly.

Goddess Izanami had vanished from the keep's roof without her noticing. Yamato no Orochi too, although it was in agony, it still looked well.

Yes. against that monster snake of fire and iron, blazing flame wouldn't become a decisive blow no matter what.

Riona=Yatagarasu unleashed her second attack.

"Gohou Douji of sword, to the front!"

She finally invested them. The armored warriors that looked exactly the same like the four heavenly kings.

Spear, treasured sword, axe, halberd, their weapon was all over the place. They simultaneously—charged to one of the eight heads of the burning Yamato no Orochi!

The weapons of the four heavenly kings messily hacked up the top of the head that was covered by scale.

And then, on the same head, the two ogres were also—

"Zenki and Goki too, go!"

The red Zenki swung down his iron axe. The blue Goki threw her large water jug.

At the end one of the four heavenly kings Zouchouten swung his treasured sword once more and cut off the snake head. It was the moment one of Yamato no Orochi's heads was crushed.

If this could be repeated seven more times! Riona was getting spirited inside Yatagarasu.

[Oo, how terrifying. What ominous gathering!]

The voice of Goddess Izanami resounded in the sky.

Her figure couldn't be seen. She was concealed somewhere. However, the beautiful voice of the lovely goddess was echoing booming at the sky that was enveloped by dark cloud.

[A graceful young woman like me is completely, completely unable to compete against them! Even the snake-dono who is my last ray of hope cannot be on the advantage right now!]

It was a grieving voice. It was an utterance of fear.

But—Riona sensed it. Within the sorrow of the mother Izanagi, there was an indescribable dreadfulness lurking inside!

And then the queen goddess of underworld yelled loudly.

[.....Please listen, my child. Thy should come and rescue thy mother. Toyo Ashihara no Chiioaki no Mizuho no Kuni will be the land where my offspring shall be king!]

"Please be careful, Rokuhara-san.....!"

Riona sent her telepathy and warned her master.

"After this there might be an outrageous counterattack!"

(Roger. I too will somehow find Izanami-san's location and do something about her. I'll leave Yamato no Orochi to you——)

When she was in the middle of listening to the telepathy from Rokuhara Ren.

Above the head of Yamato no Orochi who was swallowed by scorching heat, eight lightning bolts appeared.

The eight spherical lightning were emitting electrical discharge. They were the children that Goddess Izanami gave birth in the underworld, the eight lightning gods. Riona put up her guard in preparation against their interception.

As expected, the eight lightning gods brought down intense lightning bolts from the sky.

The attack wasn't sent to Yatagarasu and her eighteen retainers——

But to right below. Toward Yamato no Orochi that should be their ally. The thunderbolts from the eight lightning gods were coming down on the seven headed and eight tailed monster that was in anguish inside the flame.

——*ShuuuuAAAAAAAAAAAAaaaaaaa!?*

Yamato no Orochi were squeezing out its pained groan from its seven mouths at the same time.

And then, a streak of light swooped down from the dark cloud covering the sky. It looked like a shooting star. That light was falling straight toward the ground.

It plunged right into the middle of the scorching flame that was tormenting Yamato no Orochi.

The next moment. Inside the flame, the giant body of the large snake was melting muddily. While melting down with red color like iron ore that was thrown into a smelting furnace.

In addition, even the flame that should be burning down Osaka Castle and its surrounding to ash—was vanishing.

Osaka Castle's site became a burnt field in an instant. In that place there was only one of Yamato no Orochi's burnt tail remaining. Though there was only several meter of its tip lying there.

"Mother, mother. Just how much I have cried, just to be able to catch a glimpse of you....."

A man fervently raised a solemn and soul-stirring voice.

It was as though he was making a speech toward the sky that was closed by darkness and the land that was turned into a burnt field.

"I came here, my heart is refreshed."

A man leaned over the burnt field and grasped the red hot snake tail.

Right after that. The tail of Yamato no Orochi, that remains melted and vanished, leaving behind a single long sword after that.

The blade was shining silver, the long sword was stabbed on the ground.

"A divine sword that was born from Yamato no Orochi's tail!?"

Riona=Yatagarasu was dumbfounded in the sky.

If it was just like at the plot of Japanese mythology, the name of that long sword and the young man was——

"Don't tell me that man who came down from the sky is.....!?"

[How wonderful that you've come, my son. Takehaya Susanoo no Mikoto.]

The voice that was resounding booming in the darkness was filled with the love of a mother.

"My last son who I couldn't meet while I still possessed life. My gallant son. Hohohoho, you can fawn on the chest of your mother to your heart's content!"

"This son is truly grateful for your words, mother."

The man who was called a son by Izanami was a muscular young man.

He was wearing a garment with white loose sleeves and a hakama. So to speak it was a simple clothing of just a cloth with a hole in the middle for the head. The cloth at his wrists and under his knees were tied with cord so that he could move easily. A shizuri sash was twined around his waist and a magatama was dangling from his neck as necklace.

His black hair was tied at the side of his ears into midzura style.

It was the standard outfit for the aristocrat of Kofun Period (250-538 CE)——of ancient Japan.

The long sword that he was holding was none other than Kusanagi no Tsurugi, its other name was Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi——.

"This man of Susa won't hesitate to lay down my life if it's for the sake of mother. I swear that I will protect your safety from those beasts without fail!"

It was the proud introduction of the muscular youthful god.

Hearing his words from the air, Riona who was inside Yatagarasu came to an understanding.

"As I thought he is the son of Izanagi and Izanami, the god who defeated Yamato no Orochi....."

The god's name was Takehaya Susanoo no Mikoto.

The length of the long sword that was carried by his thick right hand was around 3 shaku 3 sun and 5 bu. In other words its length was nearly one meter. It was a majestic strong sword.

Its blade had gentle curve and looked similar with Japanese katana.

But, the method to manufacture a katana was found at the end of Heian Period (794-1185). Susanoo who was born in even older period shouldn't have obtained it.





Most likely it should be the sword of ancient times, warabitetou (type of iron sword with curved pommel in Nara period) that became the model of Japanese katana.

Chapter 6 – Osaka Castle of Winds and Clouds

1

The mother of country creation Izanami met an unforeseen death and went to the underworld.

The husband Izanagi who sought his dead wife visited the realm of the dead, yet he saw the rotting appearance of his wife and ran away in full speed.

He somehow returned back to the surface and purified himself with the flow of river.

"What a dirty country I've visited just now. I have to cleanse my body....." He said.

Three gods were born from the cleaned face of the father Izanagi.

First from his left eye, the goddess of sun and also the founder of the empire Amaterasu Oomikami was born. From his right eye Tsukuyomi no Mikoto was born. And then born from his nose was Takehaya Susanoo no Mikoto—.

These three gods were referred as the three precious children.

However, the youngest son Susanoo was a problem child.

He had a splendid physique, but his heart was still childish. He was wailing asking for his mother.

"I want—to go to the underworld where mother is! That's why I'm crying!"

It was said that Susanoo cried with his whole body and soul.

Because of that verdant mountain with luxuriate plants withered, river and sea also dried, evil gods filled the world with noisy sounds like the buzzing of flies. Every kind of calamity occurred.

Even after that Susanoo's violent conduct didn't settle down and he immersed himself in outrages.

He destroyed paddy field, scattered excrement everywhere, throwing horse's corpse to a weaving hall.

His big sister Amaterasu Oomikami grieved and moaned and shut herself inside that Ama no Iwato.

And then, Susanoo himself got banished from the country of the gods Takamagahara and ended up wandering the surface world.

Bluntly speaking, he was a god that was a preposterous nuisance for others.

But, perhaps his days of roaming alone was making him to grow up—.

He arrived at a village that was tormented by the terrifying Yamata no Orochi, fought the monster due to his kindness, and splendidly triumphed.

From the corpse of the great snake that Susanoo defeated, he discovered a single long sword.

This was none other than the sacred sword Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi. Susanoo offered the sacred sword to his big sister Amaterasu and regretted his past mistake. Since then, he became a king who ruled over the country of Izumo on the surface world—.

.

(And that is the simple lecture regarding Susanoo. Rokuhara-san!)

"So that big bro over there has serious mother complex huh."

(I'm feeling exactly the same but, even still he is the major hero number one in Japanese mythology.)

"And, that god has descended right now."

Rokuhara Ren who was slower than Riona who was flying in the sky by around ten minutes finally arrived.

The Osaka Castle Park that had been reduced into a burnt field—.

Only the stone wall and the inner-outer moats of Osaka Castle that were barely keeping their original shape. But the forest and also the historical buildings were turned into ash altogether.

Even the several tens of thousands of Yokotsu Shikome packed in this place were burned, leaving no trace behind.

There were still live coals smoldering here and there, the heat of the burned land was transmitted through the sneaker soles.

And then the enemy that ought to be defeated—Yamato no Orochi was also already gone.

In exchange the one waiting for him at the burnt field was a young man whose appearance could be seen often in books like history educational manga [Ancient Japan Compilation] and so on.

"So you're the godslaying beast."

The youthful god who seemed to be Susanoo was grinning fiercely.

The structure of his face itself was handsome, but it clearly displayed his wild and masculine temperament.

"I will never forgive your violence toward my mother. I will hack you into pieces no matter what!"

His divine name was Takehaya Susanoo no Mikoto. The wind was also becoming stronger in respond to his gruffness.

Ren looked at the impressive large long sword he was holding while grumbling.

"It's surprising that the opponent got suddenly changed."

(This development isn't that unusual if this is weekly serialized battle manga you know, goshujin-sama.)

Riona sent her thought to him.

(Thinking like that, Yamato no Orochi is a major monster in the strongest class even within Japanese mythology. But it doesn't have any blood or spiritual relationship with Izanami. There's no way they will have good compatibility. That's why she used it.....as sacrifice to summon her son Susanoo to be her allied deity.)

"So that's the trick."

(Unlike Yamato no Orochi, if it's the duo of Susanoo and Goddess Izanami parent-son.....it won't be $1+1=2$, the result might bloat up to 5 or even 10.)

"Then we better make it a one-on-one fight multiplied by two. I'll take on that big bro over there."

Ren immediately decided.

"Riona, you go search for the hiding Izanami-san. I want you to take care of that."

(Roger. But, I won't mind at all even if you defeat the one I'm in charge of too. Rokuhara-san is my goshujin-sama and also a godslayer after all!)

"That's certainly true. I'll handle it carefully——"

The moment Ren was speaking his assurance, Susanoo charged forward like lightning!

"Uraaah!"

"Oops"

The long sword that was swung horizontally was avoided by Ren with a back step.

The escaping feet of Goddess Nemesis was activated. Susanoo's sword stroke that could strike down even a swallow dancing in the sky moved in slow motion for Ren.

Susanoo who showed a charge that was like ferocious tiger clicked his tongue.

"You bastard, are you the same kind with rabbit or mouse? Looks like your specialty is moving around restlessly."

"Yep, correct. Susanoo-san's movement is also really good just now—oh!"

Another slash came while he was talking.

But, Ren easily dodged Susanoo's slash and he smiled bitterly.

"Won't it be fine if we have a little bit of talk at least?"

"Shut your trap boy!"

Buun, buun, buun!

Susanoo charged toward Ren and swung Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi three times.

It felt like just the wind from the swing could sever the neck. That speed was exactly like a gale. But, there was no way it could overtake Nemesis's swift feet.

Ren instantly circled toward Susanoo's back.

He immediately tried to unleash the Retributive Justice. Just like how he hit this god's mother.

"The goddess of revenge shall hand down the divine punishment.
Judgment of justice——"

"Funuaaah!"

The instant Ren was chanting the words of power, fighting spirit was unleashed from Susanoo's whole body!

The fighting spirit became a flow of air and changed into a fierce gust of wind. It was a strong wind that blew away Rokuhara Ren's body greatly.

"Wah!?"

Ren was sent flying for more than ten meters. He fell on his back.

The impact and the strong blow from the gust just now hurt the front and the back of his body greatly.

Furthermore, unnoticed Susanoo had turned a fierce look toward Rokuhara Ren who was unbalanced and swung Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi to the side in a big arc.

Even though the blade of Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi and Ren's body were separated by more than ten meter!

Susanoo chanted.

"This is, a divine sword!"

Silver flash was unleashed from the tip of the sacred sword that drew a straight line horizontally.

While it was a light that had no physical attribute, it was a "blade of light" that severed everything on earth. And then with a length that would reach even Rokuhara Ren who was far in front with room to spare——

"That's dangerous!"

Ren immediately jumped above.

The “blade of light” mowed the space where he was standing 0,2 second ago. Rokuhara Ren’s body was already jumping until the height of three or four-storied building. He somehow managed to dodge.

However, Susanoo grinned.

"I declare to the one named Kusanagi no Tsurugi! Although you are not a sword that I ought to use—right now I shall borrow you for the sake of mother!"

Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi was swung from above along with the words of power of sword.

The “blade of light” surged once more. This time it became an extra large blade that was swung down from the sky to the ground. It attacked from above at Rokuhara Ren who was still in the air from his jump!

"That’s like a beam rifle from Gundam huh....."

Ren muttered while twisting his body midair.

He didn’t just jump high. It was “a kind of flight” using the escaping feet of Goddess Nemesis. And then the posture control from his innate reflexes was also helping his movement.

As the result, he was sliding to the side at midair like a winged angel!

He splendidly dodged the “blade of light” descending from above.

"Hou! You’re quick as expected, godslayer!"

"Thanks for the praise. Big bro yourself, the way you attack is nastier than I expected."

The conversation between Susanoo who was holding Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi and Ren who landed on the ground.

If someone without wing jumped high, normally they wouldn’t be able to correct their trajectory midair. Susanoo intended to take advantage of that.

Although, Ren himself was also taken by surprise.

He expected that Susanoo was a foolhardy fighter from looking at his coarse look.

If he was someone like that, then he would be a preferable customer for Rokuhara Ren who danced like a butterfly. He would lightly jump around and toy with Susanoo as he pleased. He was hoping for that. And yet,

(Rokuhara-san. Susanoo is also a tactician who can launch sneak attack.)

Riona's telepath came.

(The anecdotes about him are full with crude story though. Like when he subjugated Yamato no Orochi, he made the snake drunk with sake and attacked it in its sleep. He isn't a pure enemy like his appearance suggested.)

"Looks like it. He seems tougher than I imagined."

(And then, the divine sword born from the tail of Yamata no Orochi, Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi—it has another name of Kusanagi no Tsurugi.)

"Is that also an item with shady history behind it?"

(Yes. When Yamato Takeru was in a grass-covered plain that was set on fire and almost died, he used that sacred sword to weed the burning grasses and created a path of escape. It's a sword that possesses various miraculous effects, but mowing down something altogether might be its signature move.)

"I see."

Ren didn't avert his eyes from Susanoo even while listening to the advice.

There was distance of ten-odd meter between the two of them. But it was a range that within the reach of Izanami's son. He would be able to attack anytime.

Susanoo grinned with a composed look and expression like a hunter.

It was a face of someone measuring the time to attack—to go into offense. No doubt about it.

"By the way Riona. How is it going with Izanami-san?"

(I'm still unable to specify her location. It's in the middle of diligent investigation, goshujin-sama. Please beat up that Susanoo while waiting without too much expectation!)

The battle of Japanese mythology that became an irregular two versus two was still at the opening phase.

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Below was the burnt field that was formerly the Osaka Castle Park.

Currently Riona was flying in the air in the huge form of Yatagarasu. She was circling around at the same spot while glaring toward the ground.

The twelve divine generals that became flame spirits and the four heavenly kings along with Zenki and Goki were standing by nearby midair.

Riona's retainers were floating in the air while lining up in a circle. They were looking even more like a mandala that was drawn in the darkness of the morning sky.

"Really, just where is Izanami vanishing into....."

Riona muttered inside Yatagarasu while sharpening her five senses and spiritual sense.

If a great goddess of that level was lurking nearby, she should be able to sense her immediately.

And yet, she was unable to sense even her presence. Not only Riona, even the supernatural sense of her eighteen retainers that were fully exerted also turned out nothing.

"Don't tell me she's leaving it all to her son and escape to far away?"

[Oo! What wretched opinion that is even coming from an enemy! To even consider that a goddess and a queen with status like mine will ever throw away my pride and strive to escape for my own life!]

Izanami's lovely voice resounded in the sky.

It seemed she was eavesdropping from somewhere. Furthermore from the speed of her reaction, she was right nearby from Riona and others as expected—.

"If you're going to act high and might proclaiming you're a queen, then please show yourself openly!"

[Hohohoho. Don't ask something so unreasonable toward a graceful weak woman like me. No matter when and where, a queen is always protected by soldiers and fortress.]

Izanami only responded to Riona with her voice while muttering.

[Even so.....the scent of underworld is also drifting from you isn't it? While you're a dead person who originally should kneel before me, you don't know when to give up and went out to wander at the surface..... Now, let me return you to the place where you should belong.]

The retainers that were floating in the sky for Yatagarasu=Riona's sake—

Among them, Zenki-Goki and the four heavenly kings were suddenly blazing up through their whole body!

"Eh!?"

Riona was astonished.

The bluish white flame burned her temporarily employed retainers to turn them into ash. The red ogre carrying an iron axe, the blue ogre holding a water jug, and the four armored warriors were writhing in agony inside the flame.

oooooooOOOOOOOOOO——. ooooooooOOOOOO——.

It was the voiceless groan of people burning in flame.

There was no doubt about it. It was an attack from Goddess Izanami. However, why only them?

"Don't tell me!"

If it was just as she expected, then the helpers who remained below were also being affected right now.

Riona turned her eyes from the sky to the ground.

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At the west side of Osaka Castle Park, in front of the front castle gate.

It was also in front of Osaka government's office building and prefectural police headquarter.

Both of them were huge building with white base color. A minitruck was parked in front of them and "Rokuhara Ren's comrades" were watching the progress of the battle.

"It's frustrating to be unable to even give assistance in the battle against the gods as the opponent!"

Princess Cassandra rubbed her hands together while raising her voice.

"I wish to be of use for Ren-sama and Riona-sama's sake but....."

"Don't worry. If we stay in the rear like this, there will come the time when the strength of human like us will be necessary in the unexpected

situation."

Julio spoke with a tone that was too indifferent to be a remonstrance.

"Pay attention to the change of situation without feeling flustered or discouraged. That's the precept of Blandelli family that has a godslayer as our ancestor, so don't you think there'll be worth in believing it?"

"My. So a family of Julio-sama was also a brethren of Ren-sama!?"

The civilians were already evacuated, so none of them couldn't be found here.

It was also the same everywhere, but due to the location that was in front of the prefectural police headquarter, sometimes there were police officers in uniform passing through. However, everyone ignored Cassandra and Julio.

They should understand from a glance that these "foreigners" weren't affiliated with the police or JSDF.

There must be some kind of notification sent from the Institution of Divinities already. It was also just right because the police right now didn't have any leeway to keep them company.

And then, the remaining members who were Japanese people—suddenly started making noise!

"Your highness, and Gyouja-sama too, what's wrong!?"

Toba Fumika was taken aback.

The ghosts beside her, Uyamado no Ouji and En no Gyouja. The imperial prince and great ascetic of Hichou-Nara period were starting to burn with bluish white flame!

But, as expected the two of them were both "big-shot".

Even with flame burning him, the old ascetic pressed his lips into a thin line and endured.

The imperial prince of the land of the rising sun was also knitting his brows and glared in annoyance to the sky. Ahead of his gaze there were the four heavenly kings that were similarly attacked by blazing flame in midair just like him.

"Tsk. So Izanami-dono has noticed that we are dead people!"

[Hohohoho. You are discerning for a human.]

Goddess Izanami's voice rang out at the dark sky.

[However, the dead should act like the dead.....return back to the underworld, the territory that I am reigning over. And bring the impertinent retainers over there back with the two of you!]

"This is bad. Even us cannot go against the order of the great goddess of the underworld!"

En no Ozunu and Umayado no Ouji, the two ghosts were taken aback.

Yes—. Goddess Izanami was the queen of underworld. Even they who were people with outstanding spiritual power in the human world were unable to oppose the great goddess of underworld as long as they were a ghost.

"Call that Yatagarasu or that godslayer! Tell them to protect me and the ascetic!"

"No good! We won't make it in time like that!"

The one who objected to Umayado no Ouji's yell was surprisingly Fumika.

The little sister of Toba Riona joined her hands in front of her well developed breasts and chanted the words of power.

"God of swiftly galloping wind, I beg you to intermediate—. Akitsu mirror, Hetsu mirror, Yakka sword, longevity stone, moving stone, death returning stone, path returning stone, shawl of snake, shawl of bee, shawl of various articles.....combining the ten varieties of treasure one two three four five six seven eight nine ten furube yurayura to furube—"

"—Oo!?"

Umayado no Ouji raised a voice of admiration. The old face of En no Ozunu was also surprised.

The two ghosts that were burning in bluish white flame—were getting absorbed. Into Fumika's, two bulging breasts that were unbecoming for a fifteen years old!

The praising voice of Umayado no Ouji could be heard from inside her.

[So you take us inside you and protect us with the heart and body of the living. Splendid. I shall bestow you a praise for your brilliance, Tamayori Hime!]

"Li, like this his highness and the great ascetic should be alright! It will be only for temporarily though.....!"

Toba Fumika was someone with special ability as spirit medium.

If her big sister was Yatagarasu, then the little sister was Tamayori Hime no Mikoto.

In other words she was a shrine maiden that could serve as object to which god of spirit could be drawn into. This designation would often appear in myth, sometimes as the name of a goddess or the name of royalty that descended from the bloodline of god.

As a spiritual ability user who inherited that lineage, she finally displayed her true worth—

Fumika yelled at the sky where her big sister was at.

"O, Onee-chan, do something about Izanami-sama quickly-. Please!"

"—Riona-sama!"

Princess Cassandra suddenly raised her voice too.





The first rate beautiful maiden even within Greek mythology, both her eyes within that beautiful face were shining gold. She saw the future using the spiritual power that the sun god Apollo bequeathed to her.

Cassandra stared to Yatagarasu at the sky and slowly pointed to the ground.

"Please don't ask anything and advance to here—toward the ground! Flap your wings with all your might and go forward, with a force that will smash apart that beautiful body!"

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"Wait, you're telling me to suicide without even giving any reason!?"

Riona grumbled inside Yatagarasu that was circling on the sky.

"But it can't be helped. If I hear the reason, then the oracle that is finally obtained will end up useless and ignored after all!"

The prophet of tragedy Cassandra was a victim of curse.

No one would believe her even if she told them of the future. It was a curse that was inflicted on her because she rejected the courting of sun god Apollo.

However, her prediction until now was always correct.

Riona who was thoroughly aware of that—flapped her golden wings with all her strength.

She flew toward the ground. If she crashed on the burnt field below with this speed and force, even the sacred bird that boasted a huge body would be smashed up into pieces.

"Fortune telling is sometimes a hit or miss.....isn't the case here, so I can only do it!"

[Oo sacred bird, you, what ferocity—!? You will break my body like that—hiiiaaaAAAAAAAAAAAH!]

The instant she flew to right below with the instinct of a gambler—

The land itself that was her target screamed.

Riona=Yatagarasu swooped down as though to smash her own body. The ground that was collided on by her head and beak made *gushu* sound, and collapsed.

Yatagarasu's huge body was getting swallowed into the ground like it was water.

It felt like diving into a soft swamp. Even though she should be charging toward the solid land that was supporting the keep of Osaka Castle.

".....So it's like that!"

Riona quickly realized the trick and chanted the words of power.

"Sacred flame pure and clear! Purify every kind of misfortune with the exorcism of fire!!"

Flame was lit on the whole body of Yatagarasu inside the ground that was soft like mud.

Crimson blaze was unleashed from the large body that was shining gold. The whole surrounding that was like mud but also like soil was burned and annihilated in flame. In addition—

"Twelve divine generals, Zenki and Goki, four heavenly kings! All Shikigamis, come to me!"

All eighteen retainers who were told to wait in the air.

They all swooped down and charged into the ground. The Shikigamis who sunk underground like their master—they also emitted blazing flame from their whole body.

That red conflagration of annihilation blew away the blue flame tormenting the ogres and the four heavenly kings—

Burning. The underground of the former Osaka castle was burning in blazing flame from the inside. Riona and her retainers became nineteen flames and burned fiercely inside the ground!

[HiiiiiiiiaaaaaaAAAAAAAAAAH!]

Izanami's scream rose once more from the land itself.

[Damn you, how annoying that you're attempting to burn down my fortress! Monsters of fire, you can swiftly depart from this enclosure!]

A flow was created inside the soft underground, carrying Riona and her retainers to the "above".

It was like an updraft. They were then spat out *peh* to the surface. Toward the sky of Osaka Castle that became a burnt field.

And then, Yatagarasu and her subordinate army saw.

The beautiful goddess was growing from the underground, like a budding plant.

"You have acted impudently, Yatagarasu."

Of course it was the goddess of underworld Izanami.

The graceful goddess's hand was holding a long rod of wood. Riona spoke/

"Is that Ama no Sakahoko? Or perhaps Ama no Nuhoko? Either way they're the same thing though."

Yatagarasu spread her golden wings and flew once more.

The twelve divine generals followed behind as flame spirits and rushed toward the sky.

On the other hand, at the ground the ogres and the four heavenly kings surrounded the great goddess. The queen of underworld Izanami held up the wooden rod to protect herself desperately.

Riona=Yatagarasu talked from the sky.

"Did you turn the land to be muddy again with that spear to hide yourself? It's pointless so it's better to stop that. It won't work on us anymore."

"Nuu....."

Izanami stared hatefully at Yataagarasu in the sky.

In the past at the age of god, the land of Japan was drifting in the sea like slushy mud.

Izanagi and Izanami stabbed that "mud" with a single spear as cordial husband and wife, stirred it, and formed the shape of Japan archipelago.

This spear was none other than Ama no Sakahoko. It was also called Ama no Nuhoko.

It was the divine tool of country creation. And then, it could also work in reverse. With this spear in hand the well-ordered shape could be destroyed and it should also be possible to return the shape back to the original "mud"—.

"I think that was a skillful thing that you did, but now that the trick is exposed, it won't work anymore. I will defeat you right away."

This was where the match would be decided. Riona inside Yatagarasu yelled.

"The abrupt darkness of heaven—. The golden spirit of black kite come and the imperial bow stopped it. That black kite is shining bright, like a lightning stream.....!"

The demon wolf of Ragnarok that ran in the sanctuary of Norse, Fenrir—.

Marquis Voban usurped an authority from that giant wolf. Yatagarasu used this greatest secret art of her to get into a test of strength with that authority right from the front.

Finally Riona would unleash the great law, the Great Exorcism of Golden Kite.

Yatagarasu and the twelve flame spirits obeying her—all of them started to burn bluish white. A total of thirteen flashes of light were unleashed from them.

Sun. The spirits of fire and sun. The essence of golden crow and golden kite was concentrated and formed into a bombardment!

"HiiiiiaaaaaAAAAAAAAAAAH!"

Izanami shrieked from the burning caused by the laser bombardment of thirteen opponents.

In addition Zenki, Goki, and the four heavenly kings also fired flash of Great Exorcism of Golden Kite from their weapon that shined brightly to purify the great goddess of underworld.

But, regardless of this fierce attack.

"Damn you.....damn you.....I won't perish here!"

Goddess Izanami's voice of resentment was leaking out while she desperately endured inside the light.

She heightened her mystical force to the maximum and endured with all her might the anguishing pain of the light that was burning her body. She obtained a certain degree of result from that.

Izanami was bravely attempting to endure through the heat and light of purification!

"This is the decisive moment, goshujin-sama! Please grant me more power-. A level of power that can consign the queen of underworld to oblivion, send it to your servant——!"

She called herself a servant, a familiar.

However, in reality Riona insisted to her partner like a queen.

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3

And then, receiving the telepathy from Riona——

"Now I've got to answer after receiving that kind of appeal."

Ren grinned.

There was Susanoo in front of him swinging Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi. He was trying to defeat Rokuhara Ren, sometimes by slashes that were like whirlwind, sometimes with "blade of light" that was like laser cannon. All of those cut through empty air without exception was solely thanks to the esaping feet of Goddess Nemesis.

The heroic god that was at the highest level even in Japanese mythology howled his fighting spirit like a tiger.

"You're doing nothing but running away like coward huh, godslayer!"

"Don't worry. I'll properly hit back at you hard after this."

Ren spoke cheerfully without a single graze on him.

Right now he was completely used to Susanoo's speed and the light blade that was fired from the sacred sword. He shouldn't get hit that easily.

Hyuuh, hyuuh, hyuuh, hyuuh!

Susanoo unleashed four slashes of sword in a single stroke.

Furthermore the last slash was swung horizontally using the “blade of light”. But, Ren dodge everything with relaxed movement like the beautiful dancing of butterfly. It was still alright. Right now it was still alright.

Actually he was harboring a worry.

This kind of rowdy person was getting heated up. His momentum was increasing the more spirited he became.

Perhaps, Rokuhara Ren and Nemesis’s[escape] would stop working before long. Before that happened he had to land a counter with all his might on the enemy.

However—Ren declared.

"Riona. Use my power as you please. You don't need to concern yourself with me!"

(Ren! You should prioritize yourself here-)

Stella=Goddess Aphrodite who was hiding inside Ren yelled.

(Rather you should sever the connection with the bird girl for a while so that your strength won't be taken away! The one that should be defeated first is this guy, this ruffian called Susanoo!)

She who was one in body and soul with Ren had surely read Ren's worry.

But, here he purposefully went with a gamble. He grinned and ignored the advice. Right after that, the magic power dwelling inside the heart and body of Rokuhara Ren—was taken away entirely.

"As expected from Riona, no holding back at all!"

(Thank you very much, goshujin-sama!)

If his total amount was 100, just now 80 had been taken away all at once——

The godslaying beast that should be tough tripped over his feet. His body also staggered. There Susanoo swung down Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi diagonally with a demonic look.

"Got you now, you beast!"

Shu-. The blade of the sacred sword cut through the space where Ren should be at.

A single brown hair of Rokuhara Ren fluttered in the air——.

But, the owner slightly backed 50 cm away with a desperate footstep and succeeded in dodging Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi in a hair's breadth.

"Oh. That was cool just now. The way you saw through that felt really cool."

"Damn you, jesting with me like that!"

"There's no such thing. I believe that fighting stylishly is really important. After all that shows just how much you're doing the correct movement."

Fuh, fuh, fuh!

Three consecutive attacks. Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi in Susanoo's hands cut through the wind and drew closer.

Ren managed to dodge those three sword strokes with minimum movement, using a body handling that was measured in centimeter.

He dodged in a hair's breadth three times. Three pieces of hair fluttered in the air. His feet and body were still staggering, he couldn't make any big movement so this small movement was just right for him.

"Tsk. It's annoying, this continuous restless motion of yours!"

Ren continued to tide over the tough spot he was in with a hair's breadth evasion that he was daring to do for the first time while,

Ren focused his concentration to the depth of his body—the area around below his navel, and began reproducing magic power. It seemed this body part in the world of sorcery or qigong was called chakra or pit of the stomach.

It was for the sake of replenishing the magic power that was circulated to Riona.

"I wonder, how is my queen is doing now——!"

However, on the other side.

"Godslayer. You bastards, don't tell me!?"

Susanoo seemed to detect something with his animalistic instinct and got taken aback.

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Thus, she obtained a lot of mystical force sent to her from “goshujin-sama”——

Riona heightened the power of the Great Exorcism of Golden Kite to unprecedented level.

"The abrupt darkness of heaven——. The golden spirit of black kite, shining bright, like a lightning stream——!"

She chanted the words of power once more too.

The whole body of Yatagarasu was emitting platinum radiance.

The twelve divine generals that were spirit of flame, Zenki-Goki, and the four heavenly kings were also emitting light. All of them were showered on Izanami on the ground.

"O.....oooo.....oo....."

The light of pseudo sun and the super high temperature tormented the great goddess of the realm of the dead.

Under that spotlight, the mother Izanami collapsed on the ground. Even so she desperately struggled to crawl out from under the light.

However, Riona and her retainers didn't lower their strength.

"For the sake of Rokuhara-san who placed his bet on this too, I will bring you down without fail here.....!"

If she kept this up, then the mystical force she received just now would be completely used up here.

But, on the other hand. If Izanami could be defeated with this—. They were the servants of godslayer Rokuhara Ren, so to speak his sword.

If they defeated Izanami, that achievement would all go back to their master. In other words.

Riona had a conviction.

"Murdering a god and usurping their authority is what a godslayer is—. Goshujin-sama's authority should increase by one more with this!"

They should be able to count on the return profit from this risk they braved.....!

And then, Riona was getting closer to win her bet.

"This is our victory-. Prepare yourself, goddess of underworld!"

[I won't let you!]

Susanoo's angry roar resounded in the sky.

[Build in Yakumo, fences within fences of Izumo, the residence for my wife—constructing fences within fences, that fences within fences! I shall protect my mother without fail!]

"Oo, my gallant son. So you're rescuing this mother of yours!"

Izanami who was prostrating on the ground eagerly reached out both her hands toward the sky.

She was being burned by the light of great purification. The great goddess would be burned to ash in just a few more seconds. Riona and her retainers had driven her to a corner to that degree. And yet.

"Eh—!?"

Riona was shocked inside Yatagarasu.

Izanami's beautiful figure suddenly vanished.

.....In this instant, the queen of underworld became a black shadow and soundlessly soared to the sky, from the edge of Osaka Castle Park until the center.

Izanami's shadow changed shape while flying, becoming a single comb.

A half round comb made from shaving wood by hand—. The one who grasped it at the center of the burnt field was the goddess's son Susanoo.

He wielded his divine strength for the sake of his mother even while trying to cut down Rokuhara Ren.

Susanoo put the brush that was none other than his mother on his own hair.

"Mother. Like this I will be able to protect you anytime."

Susanoo muttered in front of the dumbfounded Rokuhara Ren.

And then—

Riona ascertained that with the eyesight of the sacred bird that could see through even a hundred ri ahead.

"I see..... Changing an important someone into a hairbrush and protect them by putting it on his hair. That's also Susanoo's authority! Just like when he changed Kushinada Hime into a brush when he fought Yamato no Orochi.....!"

The eight headed and eight tailed monster demanded a sacrifice of the beautiful goddess.

The name of that princess was Kushinada Hime. Susanoo changed that woman who would later become his wife into a brush, put it on his hair, before going into the snake extermination.

"Come godslaying beast. I will turn you into the rust of my divine sword now!"

Susanoo glared at the enemy before him Rokuhara Ren and boasted.

He stabbed powerfully with the tip of Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi toward his mother's enemy the godslayer. Furthermore, perhaps because of his yearning toward his mother that he was finally able to encounter and his determination to protect her no matter what,

A new change occurred to the divine sword.

The blade of Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi that reached a meter in length—was dyed jet black.

It was a terribly ominous blackness. Sinister sign of ill omen could be felt just from looking at it.

And then, there was even crimson flame enveloping the black blade. That flame was flickering and swaying like a snake rearing its head. The flame snakes coiling around Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi numbered eight.

It was like a river that forked into eight branches, similar like eight heads of a large snake—

"It's always cloudy and rainy due to the great snake. That flow take shape and become river that cause the people to tremble, acquiring iron....."

With the black Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi in hand, Susanoo sang the words of power of iron.

.....Jet black wind blew. The wind looked like sand. It clung densely to the whole body of Yatagarasu who was spreading her wings in the air.

"This is what Yamato no Orochi used—the wind of iron sand!"

Riona=Yatagarasu was prevented from using her wings to fly. She was falling unsteadily.

It was the same like yesterday when she was injured by the eight headed and eight tailed monstrous snake. The black iron sand clung on the shining large body of the sacred bird Yatagarasu and became a heavy binding, restricting her freedom!

—*Zuun!*

The large body of Yatagarasu made a sound from the forced landing on the ground.

Zuzazaza The body slid on the burnt field due to the momentum before coming to a stop. It was like the belly landing of an airplane. Furthermore her transformation was dispelled.

"Kuh....."

Riona returned from the golden sacred bird back into a high school girl and collapsed.

Her body was pained everywhere. Not only that, iron sand was clinging densely all over her uniform and body. She was unable to move from the weight. Furthermore.

"This iron sand, it's sealing my technique.....?"

She tried to transform into the form of agile swallow. However, she was unable to.

It might be a spiritual effect of magic sealing. This was what caused the Yatagarasu transformation to be dispelled.

"The shikigamis——"

The twelve divine generals who were turned into flame spirits had vanished when she noticed.

Zenki-Goki and the four heavenly kings that were lent by the ghosts were also the same. Well, as expected it seemed that it couldn't go as far as suppressing the authority of godslayer. The Contract of Wings was going strong but——

"Rokuhara-san!?"

That contract was notifying her.

Of the danger to the “goshujin-sama” that was more than a kilometer away from here.

Her fiancée who had casually overcome many scenes of carnage until now. Right now he should be making a really tense expression at this situation.

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The Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi that Susanoo was holding was clad in flame that looked really similar with Yamato no Orochi.

And then, this flame seemed to call——a black wind of iron sand here. The wind didn't only cover Yatagarasu=Riona.

Ren muttered with a low voice.

"This has become slightly bad, I think?"

Ren who was confronting Susanoo was also covered in the black wind.

The speed of his escaping feet was Rokuhara Ren's strong point and his lifeline. Black sand was clinging all over his body and sealed the use of his prized escaping feet.

Even though he tried to move his body—*creak, creak*.

It only made creaking sound from his joints. He almost couldn't move. He felt like he was stuffed into a mould.

In addition.

The black binding spell blowing through the burnt field, the wind that was mixed with iron sand didn't show any sign of stopping at all. It was flowing toward the west even now with whistling sound!

"I've got to somehow cut my way through....."

Ren heightened his magic power as much as possible in order to repel the iron sand's binding.

However it was pointless. He had just handed the majority of his power to his subordinate Yatagarasu. The black iron sand sealing his freedom wasn't affected at all.

"Kukukuku. That's unsightly, godslayer....."

Susanoo gloated spitefully.

"The nimble wild rat finally stop moving."

"To think that you were hiding this kind of trump card, it's shocking. But"

Susanoo looked like a gruff ruffian, but he could also scheme—.

Ren recalled Riona's evaluation of Susanoo while asking. He intended to buy as much time as possible and increased his magic power during that time.

"This is the power that Yamato no Orochi used isn't it? How can Susanoo-san use it?"

"Hmph"

The son of Goddess Izanami only snorted.

(It's the blessing of Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi, Rokuhara-san!)

Riona's telepathy told him the answer.

(After Susanoo defeated Yamato no Orochi and obtained the divine sword, he became the king of Izumo. Izumo was a producing area of iron sand, a land that was prosperous with iron manufacture. Naturally it was a powerful country that possessed a military strength bolstered with iron weapon.)

"Iron? Could it be, this wind of iron sand is....."

(Yes. Susanoo defeated the great snake that was the symbol of iron and obtained a sword. In other words it can also be interpreted as metaphor of Susanoo snatching away iron and military force by brute force. That's why he can reproduce the power of Yamato no Orochi through Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi!)

"Uwa. So that sword has that kind of history."

(I'll also dispel this binding as quick as possible and rush there for rescue-. That's why Rokuhara-san, survive no matter what until then—)

"Yeah. I can't die without seeing my fiancée's face after all....."

Ren was aware that his face was getting serious.

He tried acting easygoing even if it was only his words at the very least while pressing his right hand's index finger and middle finger together.

He raised these two fingers in front of his face. It was the “trigger” for when he unleashed the Retributive Justice. What's left was to make use the magic power he had right now as much as possible——

"The cause of the future phenomenon lie in the past. O fate, manifest the entanglement of cause and effect....."

A goddess with pure white wings manifested behind Ren.

The name of the goddess clad in crimson garment was Nemesis. Her ice blue long hair fluttered. Her peerless beautiful face was hidden by a black mask.

It was the——phantom of the goddess who Ren murdered in the past.

Her willowy slender hand was holding along sword, Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi. The sword that Susanoo carried.

"You bastard, so you imitated the divine sword of us heavenly gods."

"I'm thinking to struggle in vain with all my might you see."

Ren bluffed in front of the scowling Susanoo.

——Goddess Athena once told him, [You are a swift warrior that make use of your feet. The like of Rokuhara Ren whose feet is stopped is nothing significant. It was a fact.

Now that he was unable to use his prided feet, he could only go with [offense was the best defense].

He would continue releasing his stock of Retributive Justice as much as he could, repel and parry the sword attacks from Susanoo, and held out.

There was a small mercy for him. Because he had received a lot of Susanoo's fierce attack, he had finished replenishing his stock——.

However, at this timing,

[Listen to me son.]

The brush on Susanoo's hair talked. It was Izanami's voice.

[That godslayer—seem to have the power to gather the sword attack and lightning directed to him and release them all at once. He must be planning to use that this time too.....]

"Oo mother. My many thanks for your instruction!"

The ferociously filial son's face brightened at the advice from his mother.

"Don't worry. After knowing that, there're many things I can do to deal with that."

Susanoo smirked—and stabbed the burning Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi to the ground.

In exchange, he chanted a very dangerous word of power.

"I—Susanoo no Mikoto, once caused a war to take everything under heaven, leading a thousand evil gods in the form of small flies. I stabbed a thousand swords in Yamato and besieged....."

"Eh—!?"

Ren instantly doubted his own eyes.

Tatehaya Susanoo no Mikoto should have let go of his long sword. However right now, above the head of him and Rokuhara Ren—new long swords were appearing one by one.

The dark cloudy sky—was filled with a great number of swords.

Most of them were straight sword with straight blade. However there were also curved swords with gentle curving blade similar like Ama no

Murakumo no Tsurugi. There were long large thick swords, and there were also short swords.

They were all floating in the air with their tip pointed at Rokuhara Ren on the ground.

The total number of the swords looked to be more than a thousand. Anyway it was a gathering of sword, sword, sword, katana, long sword, and so on.

"Even though I've accumulated stock, this number is nasty even for Nemesis-san's Retributive Justice."

Ren swallowed his saliva.

"This one seem to be even more amazing huh....."

"Kukukuku. Listen, godslayer. Once I revolted toward my elder sister Amaterasu Oomikami to overthrow her. I stabbed a thousand swords into the ground—and used them as a fortress."

"Using them as fortress!?"

"Umu."

"So that's why, you have this many swords in concealment....."

Like this even if he unleashed his full stock, he would be unable to match it.

Furthermore right now Rokuhara Ren was having insufficient magic power. He didn't know how much he could use Retributive Justice with that. The result of the battle was already clear.

While he was feeling aghast, Riona's frustrated telepathy was also transmitted to him.

(It's an episode of Japanese mythology that isn't recorded in the Records of Ancient Matters and Nihon-shoki. Lamenting the rebellion of Susanoo

no Mikoto, Amaterasu Oomikami hid inside Ama no Iwato—what a strange tale. For such minor episode of all thing to be brought out as a trump card here!)

"So Riona, does it look like you will be able to come in rescue?"

(Unfortunately, I still can't it seems.....)

"Isn't that right"

Ren was cornered into a state of mind where he could only laugh and smiled bitterly.

On the other hand, Susanoo joined both his fists in front of his chest. His strength and fighting spirit burst out. The muscles of his whole body were bulging muscularly, and he yelled with naked fighting spirit and wildness.

"Listen, o thousand of sword! O evil gods in the form of small flies! Answer my command, right now is the time to exert your strength to the limit!"

It was an encouragement toward the thousand of swords floating above.

Susanoo was making enormous amount of magic power to fill his muscular body to the brim. The thousand swords that were directed toward Rokuhara Ren were starting to tremble.

However—they still hadn't moved. They didn't fly at him.

As expected it was a major undertaking to control a thousand swords all at once.

Susanoo was wringing out all his magic power in order to achieve that difficult act. And then, a way for Ren right now to hinder him was..... none!

"That's why I told you, Ren-"

Stella's small figure suddenly appeared on Ren's left shoulder.

"I told you to sever your connection with the bird girl!"

"It's too late saying that now. It was the best choice at that time. It was just unfortunate that Susanoo-san's parent and child due overturned the table."

The wind of black iron sand was blowing without change.

Ren was still unable to take back his body's freedom. Stella's white outfit was also dirtied by the iron sand. Ren talked keenly in this desperate predicament.

"Let's completely forget this failure and try our best next time. Julio also said it right? My good point is to forget everything when the danger has passed, something like that——"

"That's absolutely not what he meant at all!"

"If there's a chance let's talk about that later. More importantly Stella, you should quickly escape from here even if it's just by yourself."

"You stupid! I and you are one in body and mind, we're sharing our lot with each other."

The small goddess with a size like a doll who governed over beauty and love in the past.

Stella stared still at Ren's face from the side with eyes that were filled with sincerity and passion right now.

"There's no meaning even if I escape by myself. Rather than doing something like that——hey, I have a request to the valiant you!"

Stella kept sitting on Ren's left shoulder and unexpectedly called out to Susanoo.

The [belt] that was wrapped around her waist was shining with rose color. It was the authority Circle of Friendship used to pester for something from a close friend, acquaintance, or perhaps lover.

"I'm wondering if perhaps you can please lend that sword in your hand to me!"

"Hah——!"

Susanoo's answer was of course a snigger.

"How foolish, little girl. To ask something like that to me your enemy. You can regret your own foolishness together with that godslayer over there! While getting stabbed by a thousand swords!"

"Uuuuh. As I thought, it's like that....."

Stella hung her head down in dejection. The moment her gaze dropped.

Finally—the swords covering the sky started moving. They rained down like lightning toward Rokuhara Ren and the small goddess on the ground.

Hyuuh, hyuuh, hyuuh, hyuuh!

Hyuuh, hyuuh, hyuuh, hyuuh, hyuuh, hyuuh!

Swords were flying one after another with the sound of cutting through wind. Sword, sword, sword, katana, long sword, blade, thick sword, large sword, straight sword, curved sword, short sword, small knife——.

"Nemesis-san, please!"

Ren unleashed his heightened magic power as much as possible.

Goddess Nemesis who manifested behind him—that phantom increased to three.

All three of them copied Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi and Susanoo's slashes, slashing away the raining down swords with quick move that couldn't be followed by eye, cutting them down, hitting them back, protecting Ren and Stella!

However the sky was filled to the brim with a thousand swords.

The number of sword didn't look decreasing.

Hyun, hyun, hyun, hyun, hyun——!

The rain of a thousand swords became a heavy rain that fell without end.

There were only three winged goddesses in crimson garment defending against this. Although they were user of godspeed, there was no way they could possibly block everything.

"Ren.....! Now that it has come to this there is something that I have to say to you at the e——"

"Wait Stella"

His other half partner whispered to him with moist eyes.

Ren suddenly realized something and smiled fearlessly. Stella's belt was still shining in rose color. An idea that thing could be done flashed in his mind.....!

"This battle, it's our win. The gamble before is correct just as I thought."

"Eh——?"

"It's not Susanoo's sword. Quickly borrow something else. I'm counting on you too Riona.....!"

Ren and the two girls were one in body and mind. It was enough with that.

Stella nodded with dignity on Ren's left shoulder. Toba Riona who was pained and unable to move at some distance away also sent a telepathy.

(Understood, I can go anytime!)

"Bird girl, lend me and Ren your servants!"

"One Shikigami, come to me——!"

A golden kite came flying from high in the sky.

The mystical force controlling the shikigami twelve divine generals became Ren's for a moment. And then, one of the divine generals transformed into a golden kite which he ordered to pass through while grazing on Susanoo's head.....

"What!?"

Susanoo was focusing all his mind into moving the thousand swords.

That was why he couldn't protect it. The brush inserted into his black hair that was bundled into mizura hairstyle—the wooden brush that his mother Izanami was changed into. It was snatched by the golden kite's beak.

[Oo Susanoo, take me—take your mother back from this bird!]

"Mother!?"

The golden kite that was holding the brush in its mouth flew toward Ren.

The thousand swords were still pouring down like heavy rain in order to kill Rokuhara Ren. Naturally, one of those swords pierced the golden kite's body, while another sword pierced the Izanami brush—.

"OOOOOOOOH!?"

Susanoo howled seeing his mother's brush smashed into pieces.

Perhaps because of that lamentation and despair, the thousand swords waiting in the air stopped moving completely. The swords that were already moving toward Ren also halted in place.

The heavy rain of thousand swords finally came to a stop.

Ren grasped that good opportunity and chanted the words of power of retribution.

"We demand the cost of life. I ask for the judgment of justice right here!"

The phantoms of three Goddess Nemesis—swung Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi simultaneously.

What was fired from the divine swords of Japan was “blades of light”. It was the same like what Susanoo used in order to corner the nimble Ren.





5

The slash of Retributive Justice by the authority of Goddess Nemesis.

Three streaks of blade of light overlapped to become a torrent of light that swallowed the disturbed Susanoo. The heroic god of ancient Japan was sent flying and he fell to the ground on his back with a loud sound.

The wind of black iron sand also finally stopped.

The thousand swords filling the sky were also vanishing abruptly—.

"Stella"

"Yes. Perform the last finishing touch properly-"

With that, the small goddess vanished from his left shoulder leaving behind an encouragement.

Like this the situation was greatly turned around. Rokuhara Ren splendidly obtained the advantage but,

"As expected from a god..... He isn't an opponent that will lose with this."

Susanoo was trying to stand up ahead of Ren's gaze.

His whole body was burned and wounded badly by the torrent of light. Even his movement that was trying to stand up was sluggish and really weak.

Even so, there was strength in Susanoo's eyes.

"You bastard, accursed godslayer.....how dare you do that to mother.....!"

"I won't make any excuse. It wasn't me who did it directly but, there isn't any doubt I was the one arranging that to happen. If you're going to take revenge for your mother, then get up quickly."

"You don't need to tell me that!"

Susanoo finally stood up with anger overflowing from his grim face.

He picked up Ama no Murakumo no Tsurugi that was stabbed on the ground once more and roughly pulled it out. He pointed the divine sword's tip toward Ren.

In respond, Ren lightly rocked his body. Iron sand was falling from his body.

The binding of iron sand that was blew by Yamata no Orochi's divine power was vanishing cleanly. Ren finally recovered his usual swift legs and godspeed.

Even his dried up magic power was slowly refilling back.

What's left—was only to make use of the enemy's power and momentum. Right now Rokuhara Ren was in the verge of making provocation and Susanoo in the verge of charging forward in anger.

The instant he charged forward like a fierce tiger, he would drive the counter of cause and effect into him.....!

He didn't attack while Susanoo was down wasn't because of sympathy. It was because the authority of Goddess Nemesis would display its true worth when it was used only after the enemy made their move.

Ren prepared to intercept with light footsteps *ton ton*.

"The regret of my mother—I'll teach it to you now, godslayeerrr!"

"Unfortunately, that's impossible."

Susanoo approached with a force like a hurricane.

However, in front of Ren it only looked like slow motion.

This counter would absolutely decide it. The moment he was convinced of that his body moved automatically. He stepped to the right and dodged Susanoo's charge and horizontal downswing while moving to land the counterattack of cause and effect that was worthy for the ancient heroic god—just before that.

Shun! An arrow of light flew.

Susanoo's neck was splendidly pierced from behind.

The son of Goddess Izanami lost the strength of his knees, slumped forward, and fell on the ground. His whole body already changed into sand when he lied on the ground and crumbled.

The valiant Susanoo no Mikoto died. An arrow from behind assaulted him—.

And then, the second arrow came.

The target was Ren. Of course Nemesis's escaping feet activated. He started running at the same time of dodging the arrow. He rushed through a distance of four kilometer in less than a second.

He arrived at the vicinity of Umeda in Osaka.

It was a large business district where old and new buildings were crammed in messily without order. Usually it would be teeming with countless people. But today it was completely empty. It was the same like abandoned area.

Arrows of light poured down on that area.

They didn't come one at a time. Dozens of arrow rained down from high in the sky toward Rokuhara Ren.

Ren slipped through below the arrows and accelerated once more. He didn't just run with a godspeed that was like lightning flash, he easily ran

on a building's—vertical wall.

He reached the rooftop without difficulty.

The building was a combined commerce facility—

Amazingly there was a huge Ferris wheel installed on the rooftop.

The Ferris wheel's diameter was easily 70 or 80 meter. It was decorated with vivid red color, so it looked conspicuous. Under that landmark—a radiant handsome young man was standing.

Ren called out.

"So it's Apollo-san as I thought."

"Oo. It's very embarrassing to be seen through like this."

"I've seen that arrow of light several times after all."

He was clad in garment of ancient Greece while carrying a silver bow like it was a harp.

A laurel wreath was placed on his wavy golden hair, displaying the appearance of a refreshing male. His grinning lips looked somewhat malicious.

"Fufufufu. I tried shooting in jest, forgive me. I thought that it wouldn't hit anyway but.....I wanted to try meddling with you. It was a sudden impulse."

"You killed Susanoo-san also for a joke?"

"No. I have a proper reason for that. Letting the godslayer Rokuhara Ren—to usurp his fourth authority won't be a good plan. That's my thought."

"Why?"

"That's a stupid question. It was me who bestowed Princess Cassandra her talent for premonition you know? Lately, the same ability is making the alarm inside me to ring vaguely. There is a risk that an obstacle will appear before I accomplish my ambition. The name of that person is Rokuhara Ren....."

"Is that the truth?"

Ren smiled wryly and replied back.

"It's not Apollo-san's instinct being wrong or anything?"

"Who knows. I'm able to read a part of the future, but I can't see everything. When it's over.....perhaps you're actually just a small existence in it, or perhaps it can also be the reverse. Well, it's not a certain thing, but I also won't make light of that vision."

The silver bow—its bowstring was nocked with an arrow of light by Apollo.

The shining arrowhead was pointed toward Ren. The bowstring was pulled. The renowned archer of silver bow from Greek mythology, there was sharpness added on that manly beautiful face.

"I understand really well that a playful arrow will be easily dodged. In that case if I fire an arrow seriously, I wonder how strong the counterattack that I will receive..... It's also not a bad idea to ascertain that now."

"It'll be really inconvenient for me though."

"Forgive me. Everything is for the convenience of this Apollo. You don't have any right to choose."

The beautiful sun god fired the arrow of light with a haughty smile.

The magic power overflowing from that arrow and Apollo's mind and body—was so immense it gave him a vague fear. That was why Ren jumped out of the way while immediately chanting.

"The misdeed that harm a life, the goddess of revenge shall hand down the divine punishment——"

The words of power of Retributive Justice. The scripture of Goddess Nemesis.

The arrow of Apollow that Ren deftly dodged——.

It drew an arc and then exploded after flying for several hundred meters.

It scattered a blast of light and heat and shockwave while generating a huge sphere of light in the sky. A hanging garden was burning into ash inside it.

It was a garden inside a corridor that was set up between the rooftops of two skyscrapers.

It was a hanging garden at the fortieth floor and an observation platform.

And then, the two skyscrapers that were supporting it were half blown away from above by the big explosion that Apollo's arrow created.

However, Ren himself was also making an equal threat.

"I ask for the judgment of justice right here!"

He leaped from the rooftop to the sky while the phantom of Nemesis appeared behind him.

He thrust out his right hand while looking down on the group of skyscrapers of Umeda. Index finger and middle finger. A streak of light was falling at the direction that those two fingers pointed at.

The arrow of light that was copied by the authority Retributive Justice was.....

Light and heat and shockwave burst up. It became a huge sphere of light, swallowing the red Ferris wheel, and in addition the building that was a

combined commerce facility—half of the building was swallowed from above.

Two great explosions that jeopardized Osaka – Umeda.

Ren observed the result of that competition from above while falling straight from the height of more than a hundred meter toward the ground.

It was a super high speed falling. No different from throwing himself from the rooftop of a skyscraper.

However, Ren somersaulted with the flexibility of a feline and easily landed on national highway number 176. It was a light landing due to Goddess Nemesis's escaping feet.

"What happened to Apollo-san?"

(Of course, he isn't a god who can be dealt with just that much.)

Stella answered in his mind.

The beautiful voice of the youthful god came down from the sky as though to support that statement.

[That was splendid Rokuhara Ren. It will be an enjoyable entertainment to continue pulverizing this city of humans like this but.....as expected I've played around too much. I'll take my leave for today with this.]

"Are you going home to Troia?"

[No. I'm thinking of returning home for a bit.]

Ren tilted his head. Wasn't the home town of sun god Apollo the world of Greek mythology?

No, come to think of it, he felt like he had heard something about it before—

[Fufufufu. I'm a god who came to the sanctuary of Greece from foreign country, the same like lady Aphrodite. I'm thinking to search for my dear birthplace.]

"Searching.....?"

Ren noticed Apollo's strange indirect phrasing.

However, even more words that told him it wasn't the time to think about that came down.

[Oo, that's right. The beautiful Cassandra.....the princess of Troia will be in my care for a short while. One day I will responsibly return her back to her palace so don't worry.]

"Eh!?"

[Of course, I shall guarantee her safety too.]

A bird feather fluttered down in front of the surprised Ren.

It was a green feather. He had just seen it yesterday too. It was undoubtedly the divine tool Hermes's Feather that guided Princess Cassandra to Midgard!

And then, the moment Ren caught that feather with both hands.

The divine tool of the guardian god of traveler Hermes crumbled to dust and vanished.....

[Will the place we meet next time be my birthplace Hyperborea, or a completely different sanctuary—. Farewell, godslaying beast! You too princess goddess of Cyprus, stay healthy!]

That was the farewell that the sun god left behind.

Epilogue

1

The next day after the commotion concerning Goddess Izanami no Mikoto was concluded.

The old directors were having confidential talk inside a gloomy room of the headquarter of Institution of Divinities.

"Godslayer Rokuhara Ren....."

"To think that kind of person will be born from among the Japanese people....."

"This is a great failure. Even though someone like that appeared, he was taken right from under our own nose by foreign country—furthermore it's by Europe's association!"

"No, but, if the daughter of Toba house become Rokuhara-dono's wife——"

"That might not be bad."

"Certainly. Through that girl, we the Institution of Divinities of Japan will also be able to quickly deliver our opinion and demand to him."

"Hohohoho"

The genial laughing voice of an old lady came out.

The old men who were engrossed in a secret discussion that could hardly be called constructive hurriedly closed their mouth.

The directors in attendance were all flustered and astonished. However Takatsukasa Hinako who had the position as the Head Kannagi was filled

with composure.

"Everyone. Right now we should pay a bit of attention of what we're saying."

The princess shrine maiden Hinako-sama spoke gently.

"Riona-san is the young leader of Toba house, on top of that she is Rokuhara Ren-sama's fiancée.....that's who she is. To speak of her unfavorably calling her something like [girl]—isn't that a bit imprudent?"

"....."

".....yes, certainly."

"It's indeed as you say."

The male directors were replying respectfully to the lone woman in the group Hinako-sama.

Their attitude toward the "overall leader in name" was more respectful than before. Of course it wasn't like they were treating her impolitely before this but—previously there would be a hint of disdain oozing out from their attitude toward her.

But right now that haughtiness was cleanly eradicated.

Hinako-sama pretended to not realize that and spoke elegantly.

"Please be careful from here on, everyone."

"Understood.By the way Hinako-sama"

"We wish to ask about something unrelated. Rokuhara-sama is actually—Hinako-sama's relative. We heard that kind of story from somewhere."

"Fufufufu"

Hinako-sama intentionally made a meaningful smile.

"I shall talk about me and Ren-san bit by bit from now on. For today, I believe we should focus in talking about dealing with the aftermath of the turmoil today, don't you think so?"

"By your will."

"It's just as you say."

"No, even so that Rokuhara-dono—. From the first time I saw his face, I secretly felt that this person isn't just a normal person. When I learned that person is a godslayer, it felt like my knees lost their strength."

One of the directors smoothly spoke out words of flattery.

He talked really passionately, speaking without any reservation as though he was someone who [I believed in him from the start!]. It was a magnificent change of attitude to the degree that he could resolutely speak words of praise. Hinako-sama looked around at the directors who were like that and nodded.

She wasn't an overall leader that was just in name anymore.

Right now she was none other than the head who controlled Japan's Institution of Divinities both in name and in reality. The rulers were accommodating her because she was Rokuhara Ren's "distant relative".

And then, just like Toba Riona prophesized before the battle—

"There are complaints from each involved ministry, Osaka's prefectural governor, and the mayor of Osaka."

"Oo. About the matter of the burning of Osaka Castle."

"What foolish bunches. It's exactly because of Rokuhara-sama's excellent decision that the Yomotsu Shikomes crawling around Osaka Castle could be purged away. If they dawdled at that time, the tens of

thousands of the dead would surely slip out of the castle, and far from just Kansai, the whole Japan would be filled with them."

"Umu. So to speak Osaka Castle is a noble sacrifice for the sake of preventing that."

"Very well. Immediately send someone to the prefectural office and explain to them about that logic and the debt of gratitude toward Rokuhara-sama."

The elders were striving to be the first to start carrying out "the surmise toward Rokuhara Ren".

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".....Like that, the directors of the Institution of Divinities would forcefully argue away the country and Osaka prefecture."

Nara prefecture Ikoma city, Toba house's garden.

"Had you thought until that far when instructing me to destroy Osaka Castle? By the way I had finished taking even that matter into consideration before obeying the order."

"No. That was purely just me being struck with the idea."

Ren went out to the garden wearing a sandal. He easily answered like that.

"The instant I imagined Osaka Castle full of zombies, I thought that it would be better to do that. And then, I told it to Riona almost reflexively."

"In other words, you're saying that you arrived at the optimum solution by spinal reflex."

His fiancée who was in the logical faction nodded with seriousness.

"That answer is even more terrifying than if you tell me you gave that order with a calculating mind. After all rather than thinking, feeling will be

absolutely “faster”. Under the situation of extreme chaos that is battle, that instinct might become the most important quality."

"It's not that big of a deal."

Unusually, Ren was talking in dejection.

"After that Cassandra got kidnapped after all....."

"I think that was because Apollo's diversion was clever. He held back Rokuhara-san with the same arrow that killed Susanoo, and we were also deceived."

Riona let out a heavy sigh after giving that follow-up.

"Both I and Julio moved to back up Rokuhara-san. The matter of Princess Cassandra was completely moved out of our focus. When we noticed, the princess had already vanished....."

"I'll absolutely find Cassandra and rescue her."

It was a short declaration, but that was Ren's oath.

That vow wasn't directed to anyone in particular. It was a vow that he carved into his own heart. His fiancée who was listening at the side nodded shortly and murmured as though she was praying.

"The sun god Apollo doesn't only govern over foresight. He is a heaven-sent child of reasoning. He should be a god who is thinking logically to the bitter end. If he kidnapped Princess Cassandra because he has a reason, then perhaps it will be just as he stated, that the princess won't be harmed."

"Yep. It will be nice if that's true."

Ren quietly looked up to the sky.

The weather was cloudy. The noon sky was covered with a dark cloud.

The battle versus Izanami and Susanoo was yesterday. After their termination, the morning sun finally rose and Japan archipelago was able to enjoy the first light of the dawn.

However in the end since yesterday they could only see clear weather in interval.

The sky was cloudy most of the time. The gloomy weather was continuing.

And then, while Ren and Riona were immersed in a dark atmosphere, a young Latino nobleman came to the Japanese room of Toba house that was facing this garden.

"I've got a bad news, Ren."

Julio looked sour with a smartphone in hand.

"Our headquarter Valencia. The hands of the Doomsday Clock that is kept there has advanced by a lot—it will point at twelve o'clock in thirteen more minutes."

"Doomsday.....clock?"

Riona tilted her head. Julio told her apathetically.

"Come to think of it we still haven't told Riona. Well, it's a ritual implement that is exaggeratedly professed to be showing how much longer there is time until the world destruction. In reality it's unclear how much it can be trusted but—"

In the middle of the explanation,

DON! An impact could be felt pushing up from right below them.

The garden of Toba house where Ren was standing on, no, the land itself was intensely shaking. The ground kept shaking just like standing on the boat that was going on to the sea in a very stormy weather.

"Earthquake——?"

"This shaking is really intense....."

Ren frowned in the garden. Riona's face was tense.

But, they were Japanese people who were born in the large country of earthquake. They held their breath quietly to ascertain how large the scale of the earthquake would be.

Riona's smartphone was ringing with the alarm of earthquake notification.

.....In the end the shaking continued for three minutes.

During that time, Julio stayed calm sitting on the tatami of the Japanese room. He was silently fiddling with his smartphone. He took a remote control along with the end of the earthquake.

It was the remote control for the LCD television inside the room.

He turned on the TV. The public broadcasting was broadcasting the noon news at that timing.

[An earthquake early warning has come out. A shaking with seismic intensity around 4 until 5 Richter centered at the Pacific Ocean of Japan archipelago's side that covered an extensive range has been confirmed.]

[The hypocenter is currently under investigation.]

[Tsunami warning for the coastal area is also——]

The announcer was hurriedly speaking based on the information that had just come in.

They also brought out the projector and map. From the side of Pacific Ocean until the center of the archipelago—more than half of Japan's 47 prefectures were under the influence of the earthquake.

"The earthquake just now didn't happen only in Japan.....it seems that it happened almost at all lands that are facing Pacific Ocean and Atlantic Ocean. North America, South America, every island in Pacific Ocean, Kamchatka, Philippines, Indonesia, western part of Africa, western part of Europe—well, it's almost at the scale of the whole world."

Julio checked the information of foreign countries through his smartphone and Japan through the TV while muttering.

"The destruction forecast of that clock might be quite trustworthy."

.

2

It was a space with darkness that spread without end.

However if one focused their eyes, there were several lights blinking at faraway. It was similar with the light of—stars silently being buried in dark night sky where there was only darkness.

This was the domain of the 《interstice》 .

It was a place that wasn't the world of human at the surface or the world of mythology.

In this space normal human wouldn't be able to enter and leave by all means. A silver haired girl was standing there. She was the goddess of wisdom and war Athena.

Athena suddenly turned around and found a handsome man who was her old acquaintance.

"What is your business, o radiant Apollo? What's with that princess?"

The golden haired sun god who wasn't only handsome, but also muscular.

There was a beautiful girl carried on his sturdy right shoulder. She was a familiar girl. A silver haired beautiful princess. Cassandra of Troia royal family.

The prophet who was descended from god's bloodline was fast asleep.....

"What. I believe that she will be useful to me and—to you."

"Princess Cassandra, she will?"

"Umu. By the way o daughter of Zeus. I wonder if you know about the sanctuary of Hyperborea? If we manage to discover it.....it will surely be useful for you just like this princess."

Apollo asked with a smirk of a ruffian.

That was the first step to draw Goddess Athena to become his ally and realized his plan.

Afterword

Everyone, it has been a long time.

Shiniki no Campiones finally reached until its third volume's release.

And then finally. From this volume the paper publication and the ebook version are finally released at the same time.

Honestly speaking, as one of the readers too I,

"It's really unfriendly for the ebook version's release to be later than the paper book at this age!"

Had that thought, so I think this is really a delightful matter.

.....However, fortune and misfortune come by turns.

Actually when the paper publication was released ahead, a secret trick that was a bit problematic was used.

Yes. Writer that had experience of being cornered by deadline that was unknown whether they could make it or not would abuse that experience,

[Please just beg at the ●●● printing so they will print the book with super express speed.]

[I know already, that the books can be printed if you have ● days.]

[Hyuu! As expected from ●●● printing. They can print ● 0 thousands of books even with schedule that is absurd no matter how you thought about it!]

Like that.

You can still cannot ask for that kind of absurdity for the ebook version.

Thus, the chance to make people at the same business circle to be taken aback by reporting to them that currently I'm writing the book that is planned to be released in XX more days is also gone.

No, of course that kind of secret trick isn't used that often.

Well, when I was cornered until really near the brink, that trick might have been used once, twice, thrice, four times.....hahahahaha.

.

Now then.

The stage of the third volume is of a slightly different nature than before.

If it was RPG until now, this time it was like fighting game and also foreign drama.

In addition the stage is the modern Japan and Kansai region. It became a story centered on Nara that I've been wanting to write into some kind of work one day.

To tell the truth at the stage of the plot conception, I lined up even more maniac words.

[The secret of ancient Katsuragi dynasty that was equal with Yamato dynasty!]

[The earthy deities Tsuchigumo clan appear!]

[In addition Kamo clan also join the fight! Outbreak of Youkai great war!]

Those in their own way were content that I could personally really have fun with but,

Well, as expected I judged that they intended to mania too much, and the theme became like this time. If I have a chance someday, I want to delve into that direction too.

.

And so, the third volume became Yomotsuhirasaka arc.

As usual, this time too you can read the glossary that is a collection of all the little tidbits that won't be useful for your life from Takedzuki Jou's Twitter.

[Impurity]

[Tsugaru Soto Sangunshi]

[Magical tool to protect against evil spirits]

[Abe no Seimei]

[Country of mother]

And so on, I prepared around 20-30 items.

(I'm planning to write after this afterword, so there might be update there.)

If you're interested, please give it a look.

.

Now then.

Let's talk about the matter that is announced in the wrapper of this third volume.

Amazingly, there will be the limited version of next volume that will be sold together with audio drama. A scenario that I write will also be attached on it as extra.

If I have to talk a bit about the content, the theme will be [showdown].

Actually I, Takedzuki Jou has one pet theory.

It's difficult to express a battle with just the media of sound, perhaps a work that's mainly like that shouldn't be created.

But, this time I'm thinking to challenge that opinion of mine.

And then, not just the readers of Shiniki no Campiones, I also wish that the readers of the Campione series that is attached with [!] will also enjoy it by all means.

Although I said that.

Regarding the casts , currently I'm in the middle of considering it from all sides.

When I tried suggesting right from the beginning of the reentrance of that person, I was given a reply that most likely there won't be any problem.

(Everyone who moved from the anime to the light novel will be especially familiar with that person.)

At present, the audio drama's planning is moving forward on that line.

A tale of the [showdown] between the main character Rokuhara Ren and one other godslayer.

It seems that some number of copies will also be circulated in general other than the advance order, but as expected I believe that you will be able to obtain it with certainty by ordering in advance.

.

Well then, it will be great if we can meet again at the fourth volume and the audio drama.

It's planned to be published at autumn or late autumn.

Best regards.

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